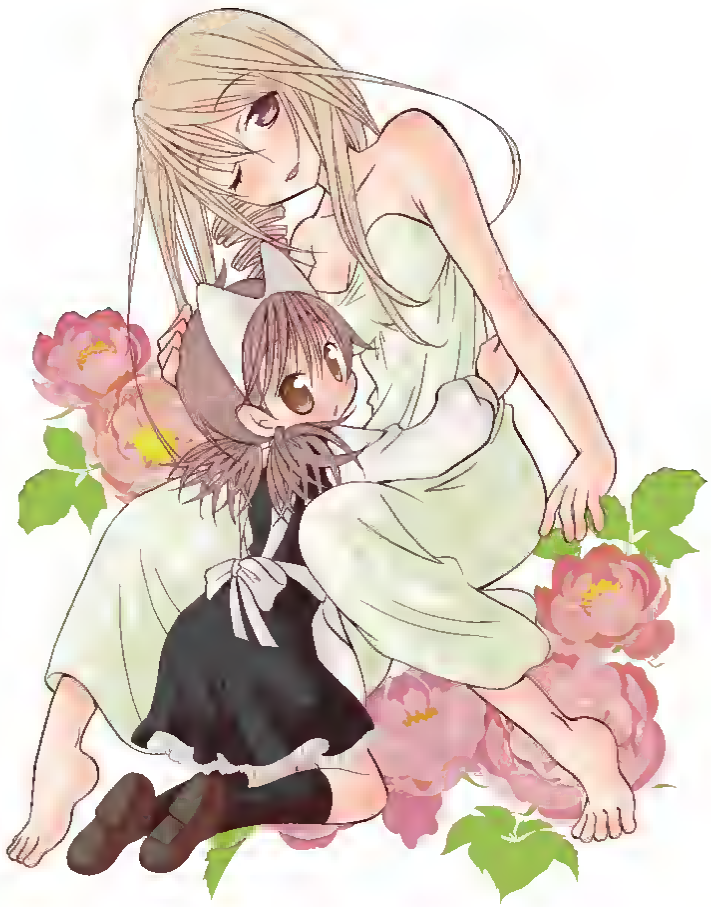
後藤羽矢子
hayako goto
プアプア
poor poor lips
LIPS
3
BAMBOO COMICS
TAKE SHOBO



poor poor lips 3

Hoyako Goto presents

poor poor lips

characters

okashi-nako

大河岸ナコ

Born on 8/18. Blood type O. Twenty-two years old. She's $200,000 in debt and has been living in abject poverty since her parents passed away, but she's pretty easy-going.

otsuka-ren

大塚レン

Born on 2/26. Blood type AB. Age unknown. Her mother cut her off, so she's poor now, but she's turned out to be surprisingly tough and flexible.

otsuka-nei

大塚 寧

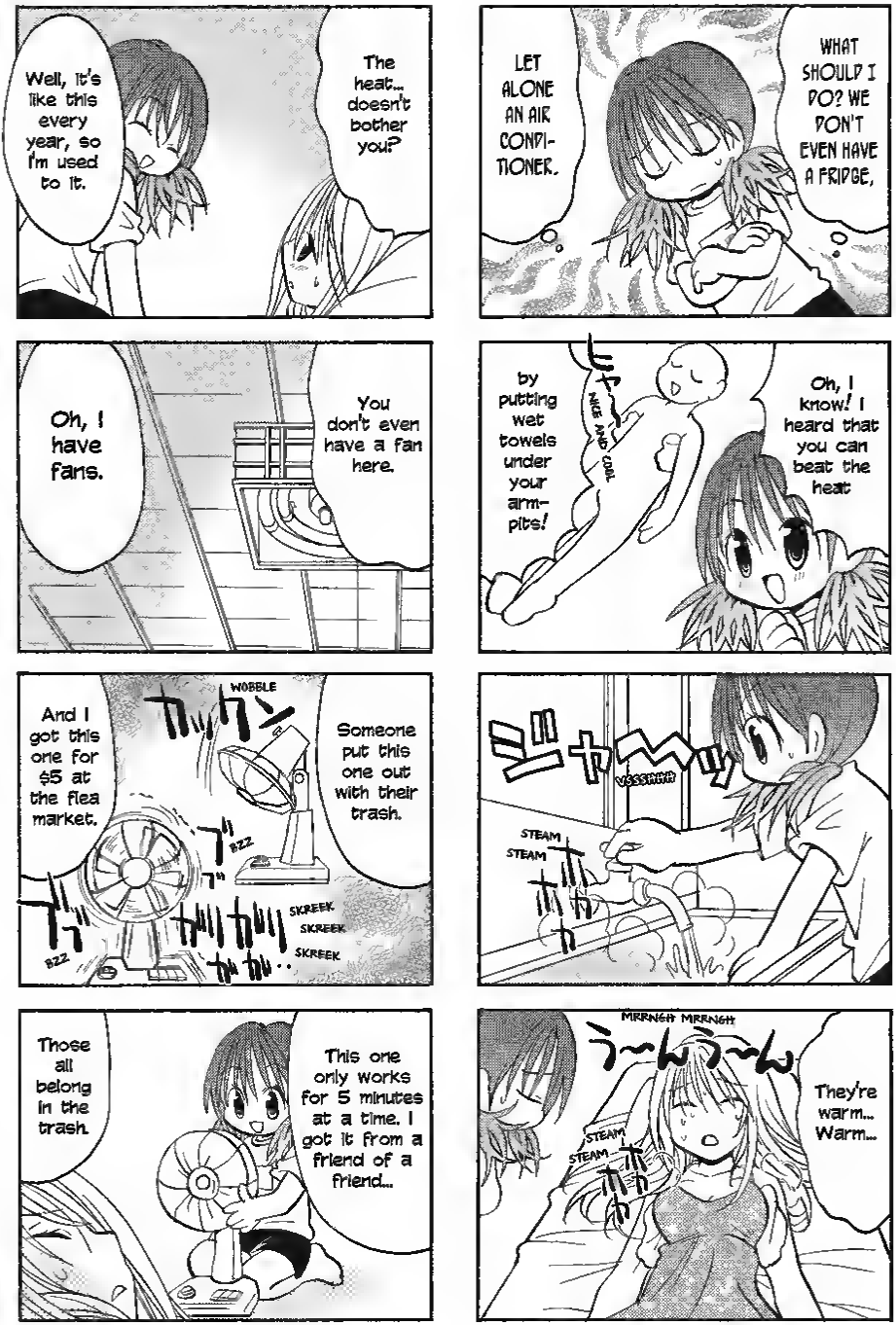
Born on 11/27. Blood type AB. Age unknown. Ren's mother. Sometimes it's hard to tell whether she's on Ren's side or not, but that's normal for a parent.

furui-keiki

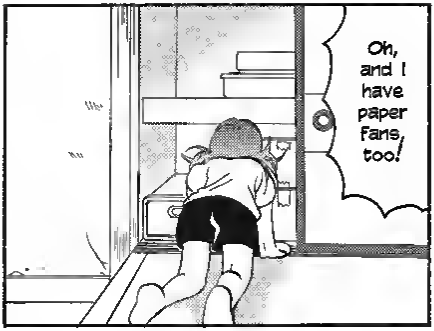
古井圭樹

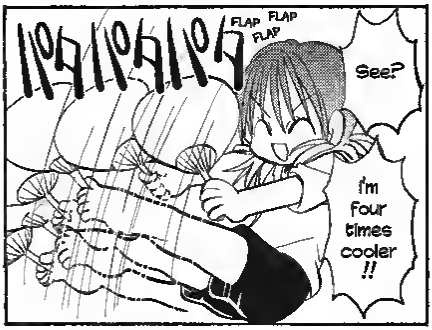
Born on 9/5. Blood type A. Twenty-two years old. He went to high school with Nako. He's pretty popular with the ladies, but Nako and Ren barely notice him at all.

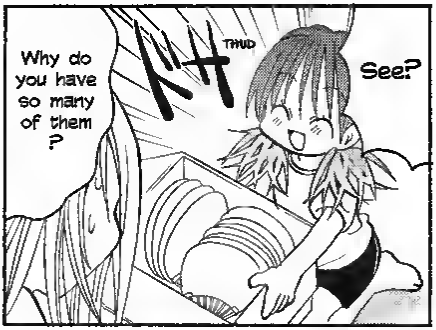
プアプア38
poor poor

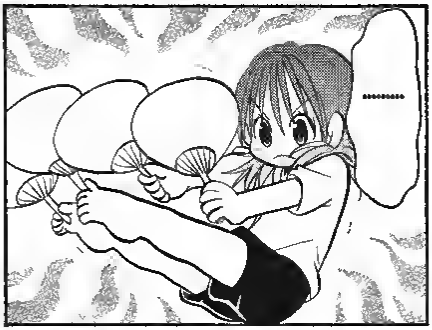

The heat... doesn't bother you?
Well, it's like this every year, so I'm used to it.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A FRIDGE,
LET ALONE AN AIR CONDI-TIONER.
You don't even have a fan here.
Oh, I have fans.
Oh, I know! I heard that you can beat the heat
by putting wet towels under your arm-pits!
NICE AND COOL
Someone put this one out with their trash.
And I got this one for $5 at the flea market.
WOBBLE
SKREEK
SKREEK
SKREEK
BZZ
BZZ
VSSSHHH
STEAM
STEAM
This one only works for 5 minutes at a time. I got it from a friend of a friend...
Those all belong in the trash.
They're warm... Warm...
MRRNGH MRRNGH
STEAM
STEAM

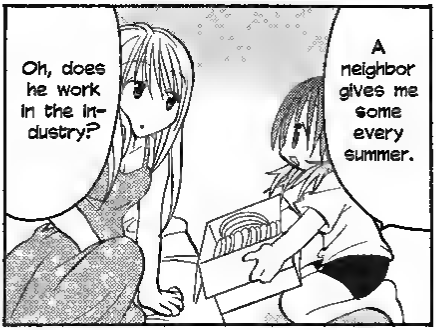
N-no, you can use more than one at once!
You have so many...
Isn't one plenty?

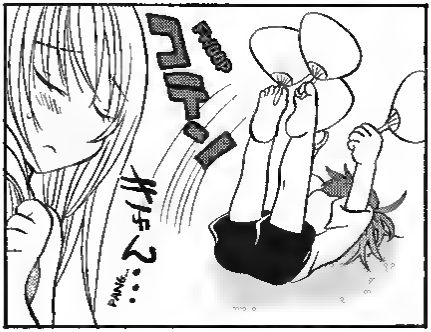

Oh, and I have paper fans, too!

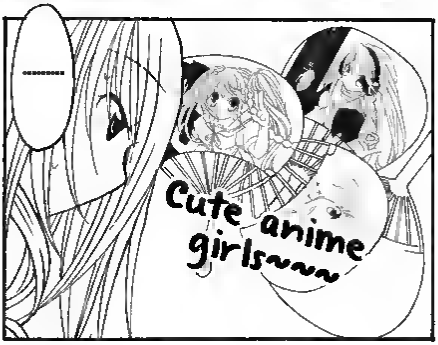

パタパタパタ
FLAP FLAP FLAP
See?
I'm four times cooler !!


Why do you have so many of them ?
THUD
See?


.....

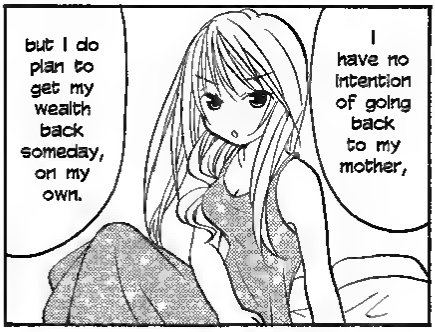

Oh, does he work in the industry?
A neighbor gives me some every summer.


PANG
コテン
ハテ?...
PANG...


.....
Cute anime girls~~~

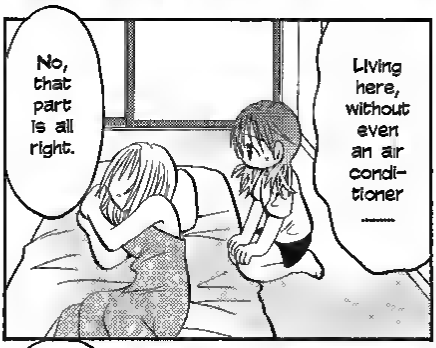
Y-yes?
Nako.
4h
PANT

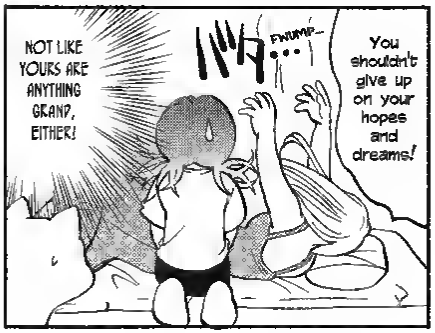
.....
Sigh...
SLUMP...


I have no intention of going back to my mother,
but I do plan to get my wealth back someday, on my own.

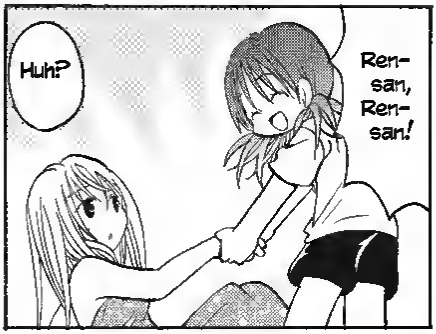
Um...
Is it tiring for you...
being poor?

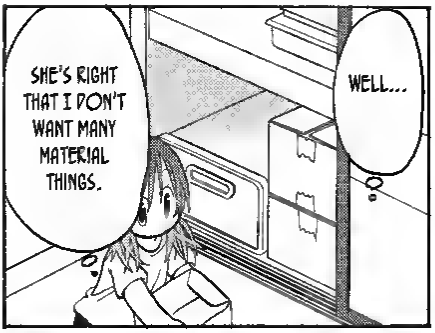
And when that day comes, you and I are going to
sit in a cool apartment and drink all the chilled beer we want!!

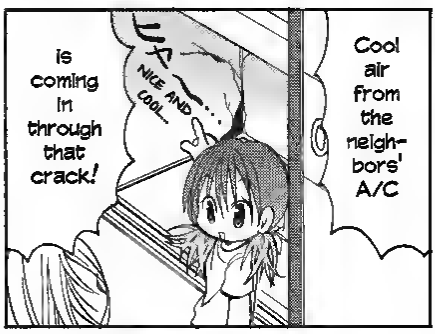

Living here, without even an air conditioner .....
No, that part is all right.


You shouldn't give up on your hopes and dreams!
Whi?...
FWUMP...
NOT LIKE YOURS ARE ANYTHING GRAND, EITHER!

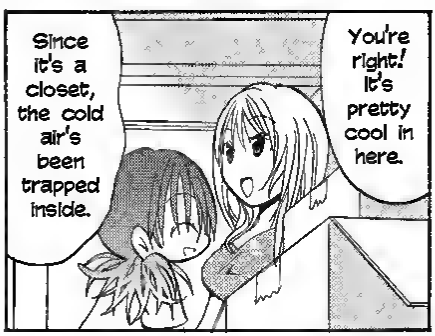
I just don't like
how you've given up on
so many things now that you're used to living in poverty.

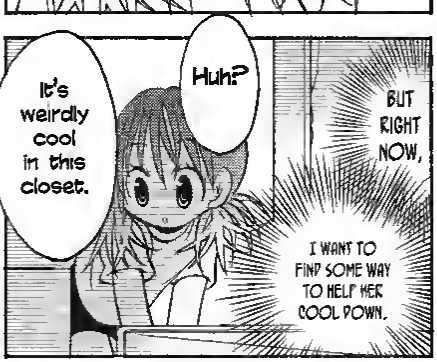

Huh?
Ren-san, Ren-san!

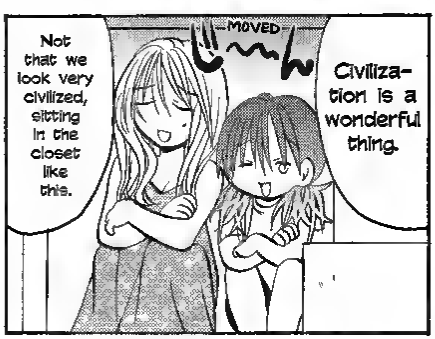

SHE'S RIGHT THAT I DON'T WANT MANY MATERIAL THINGS.
WELL...


Cool air from the neighbors' A/C
is coming in through that crack!
NICE AND COOL...

SINCE I CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY THEM.
WANTING THINGS IS JUST PAINFUL.


You're right! It's pretty cool in here.
Since it's a closet, the cold air's been trapped inside.

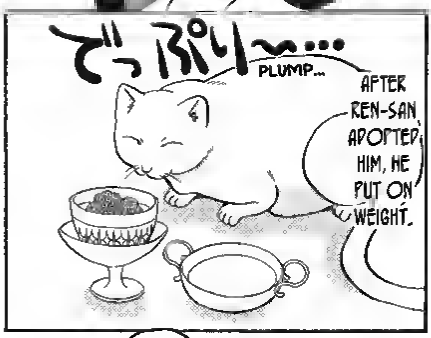

Huh?
It's weirdly cool in this closet.
BUT RIGHT NOW,
I WANT TO FIND SOME WAY TO HELP HER COOL DOWN.

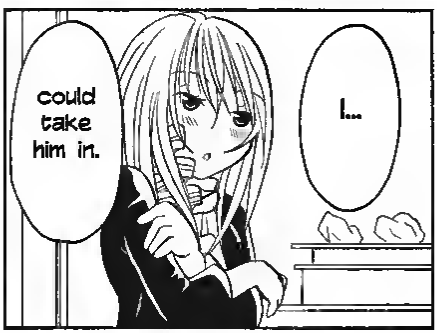

Civilization is a wonderful thing.
MOVED
Not that we look very civilized, sitting in the closet like this.

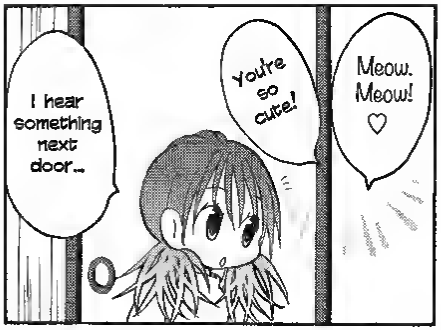
Oh!
NICE AND COOL...

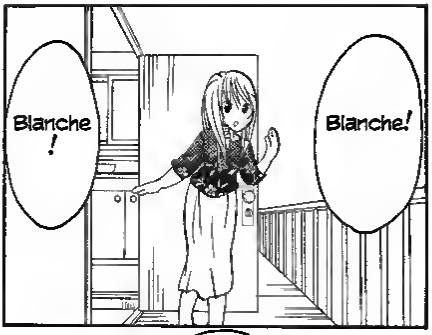
Ren-san,
I'm going to do my best,
Beer?
If we had some beer, this would be just perfect.
let's plan to get an air conditioner and drink lots of beer!
so next summer,
Just a minute!
Nako...
Oh, cider? That's good too.
FIZZ FIZZ...
It's better for fighting summer fatigue when it's warm!
GULP GULP
This is lukewarm...
Let's get a refrigerator first.
.....
The needles give off gas.
I made it myself! I put some pine needles in sugar water.

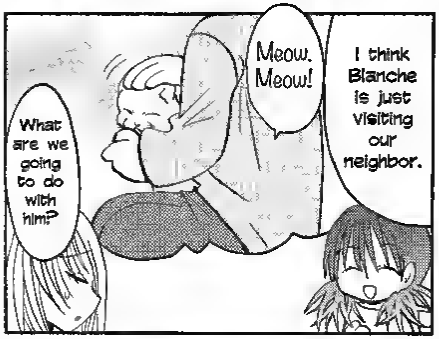
プアプア39
poor poor

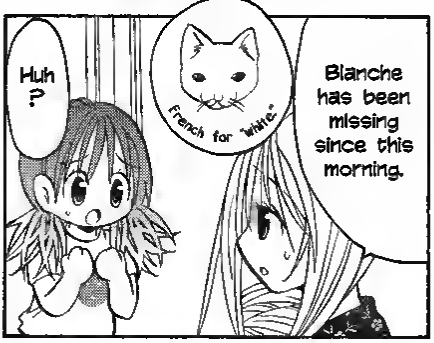


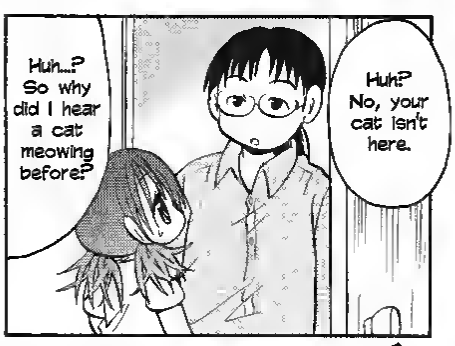


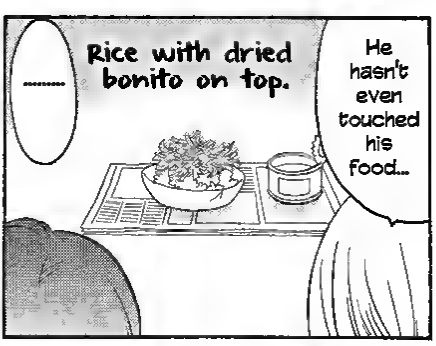

I hear something next door...
You're so cute!
Meow. Meow! ♡

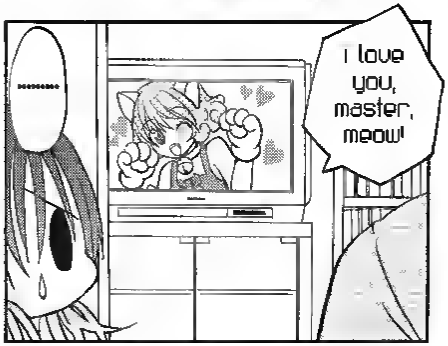

Blanche!
Blanche!

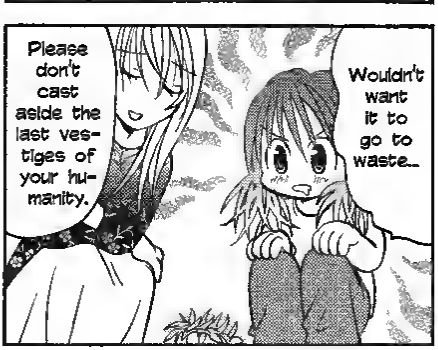

What are we going to do with him?
Meow. Meow!
I think Blanche is just visiting our neighbor.


Huh?
French for "white."
Blanche has been missing since this morning.

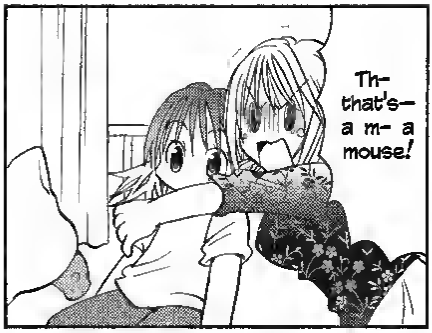

Huh...? So why did I hear a cat meowing before?
Huh? No, your cat isn't here.

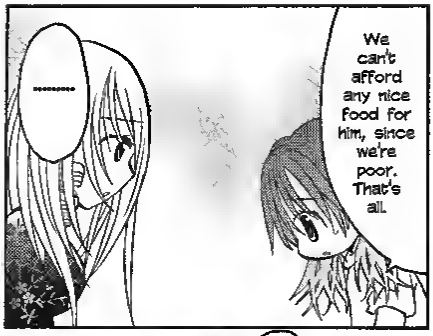

.....
Rice with dried bonito on top.
He hasn't even touched his food...

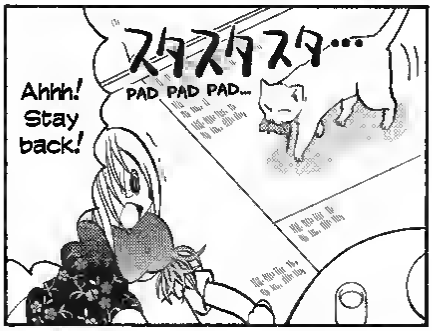

.....
I love you, master, meow!

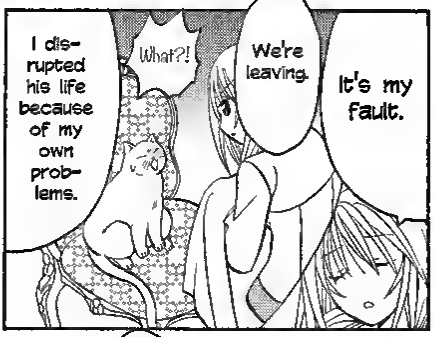

Please don't cast aside the last vestiges of your humanity.
Wouldn't want it to go to waste...

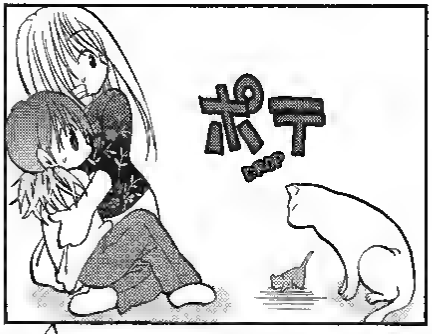
.....
Um,
He wasn't outside, either...
All right.
How about we go look for him outside?
would it be possible...
if he does come back,
ALL WE FEED HIM NOW IS CAT FOOD...
MAYBE HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME.
!
to have your family take him in?
HE WASN'T COMFORTABLE HERE.
MAYBE AFTER BEING RAISED IN REN-SAN'S APARTMENT,
N-no, that's not the problem!
I guess it IS weird for me to have a cat when I'm sponging off you...
REN-SAN'S ADAPTING TO HER NEW LIFE, THOUGH.
Let's pick some.
Hey, these berries are edible, right?

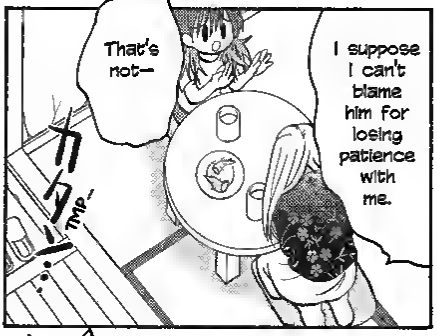

Th-
that's—
a m- a
mouse!


.....
We
can't
afford
any nice
food for
him, since
we're
poor.
That's
all.

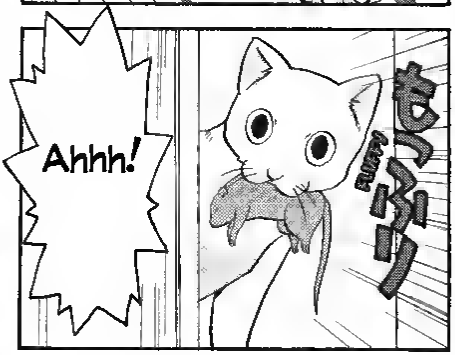

スタスタスタ…
PAD PAD PAD...
Ahhh!
Stay
back!


I dis-
rupted
his life
because
of my
own
prob-
lems.
What?!
We're
leaving.
It's my
fault.


ポテ
POTE


That's
not—
カチン
TMP
I suppose
I can't
blame
him for
losing
patience
with
me.

Noooo
!
Um...
he's
telling
us to
eat it.


Ahhh!
もぐもぐ
MUNCH

Y-you really think so?
And he loves you!
Bringing us his prey is his way of looking after us.
Why would he want to look after you if he didn't?
Yes!
BEAM
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
Blanche.
Thank you,
This was his first hunt. I bet he had a ball.
He looks so happy.
I-I'm scared of snakes too!
N-N-Nako, do some-thing!
AFTER THAT, HE STARTED HUNTING EVERY-DAY.
actually likes it here.
Maybe he

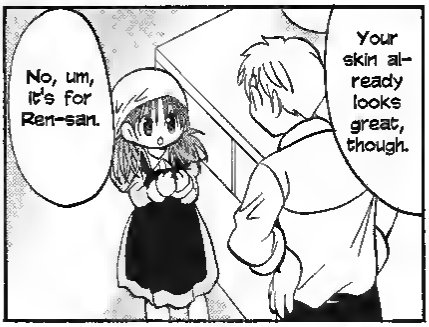
プアプア40
poor poor

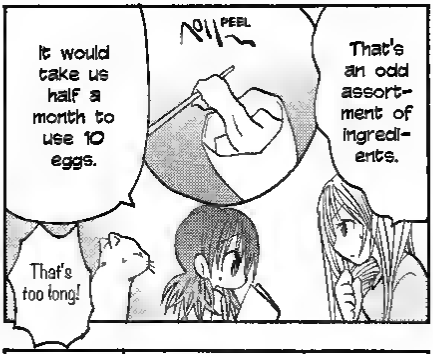
Hmm...
my skin is getting dull...
I wonder if it's because I've cut back on cosmetics,
since the ones I brought with me are nearly gone now.
How much do these cost?
I can't afford to buy any new ones.
This lotion costs $200!
This one is $300! And this one is $400.
Holy crap!!
Two hundred dollars.
Huh? Two hundred, just for those?!

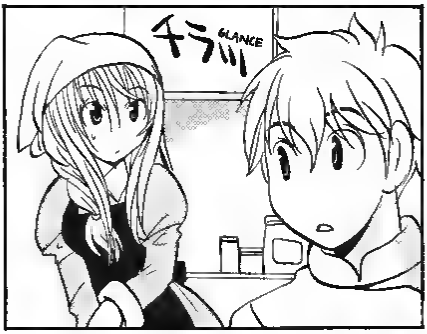
I have dry skin, so I need to keep it moisturized.
Oh, in that case...
What do you use to take care of your skin?
I put sponge-gourd lotion on it...
I have instructions for making a homemade face lotion.
They were in a book I borrowed from the library.
Huh?!
at the public bath.
...Wait, you don't have your own?!
They say it's economical, and gentle on your skin, too.
Why haven't you made it before, then?
I've never had any problems with my skin, though.
.....
GLOW つや
GLOW つや
The ingredients were too expensive...
But it's supposed to be economical.
Yes, it's as silky-smooth as a boiled egg...
Um, you've been stroking it for 10 minutes now.
STROKE
STROKE
STROKE
STROKE
STROKE

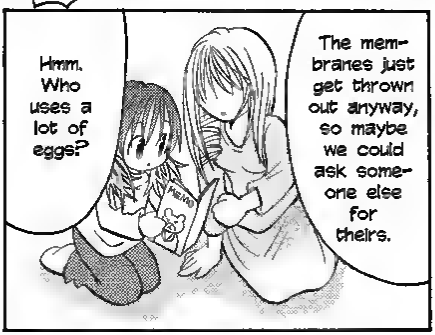
You need egg membranes to make face lotion?
Sure, I guess you can have some.

These are the ingredients.
10 egg membranes
dried kelp
clear liquor
citric acid
purified water

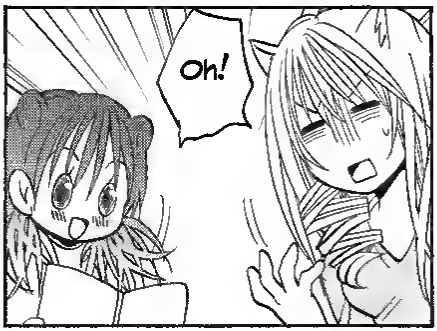

Your skin already looks great, though.
No, um, it's for Ren-san.

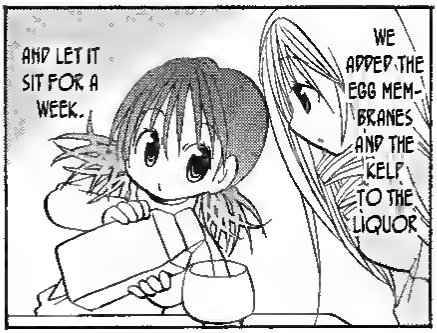

That's an odd assortment of ingredients.
PEEL
It would take us half a month to use 10 eggs.
That's too long!

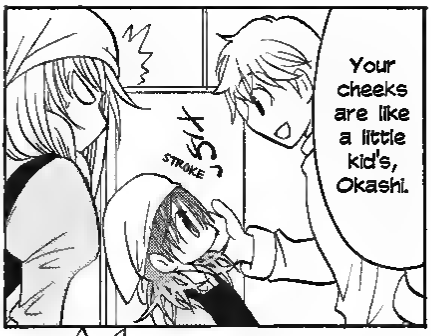

GLANCE

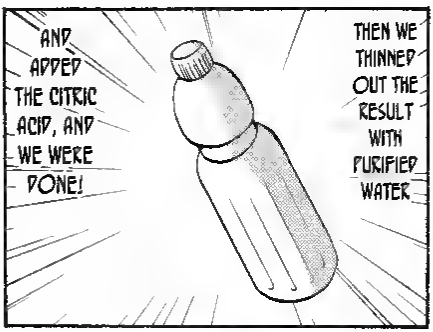

The membranes just get thrown out anyway, so maybe we could ask someone else for theirs.
Hmm. Who uses a lot of eggs?

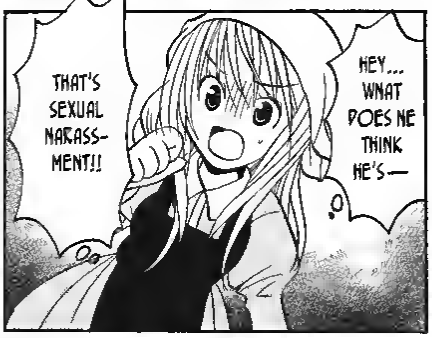
Ohhh.
Hey! What was that "ohhh" for?!

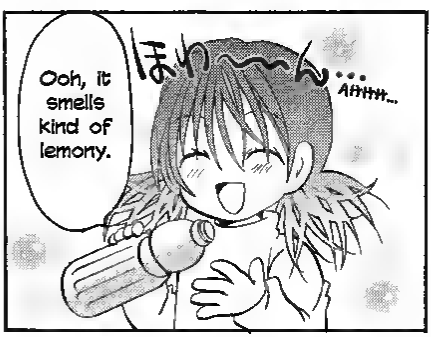

Oh!


WE ADDED THE EGG MEMBRANES AND THE KELP TO THE LIQUOR
AND LET IT SIT FOR A WEEK.

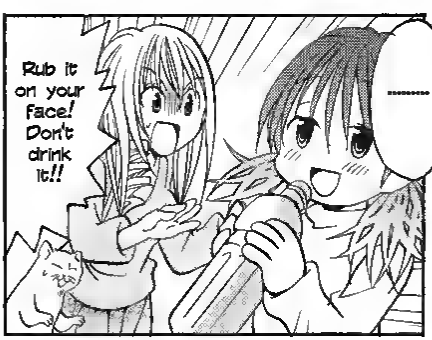

Your cheeks are like a little kid's, Okashi.
SUSU
STROKE

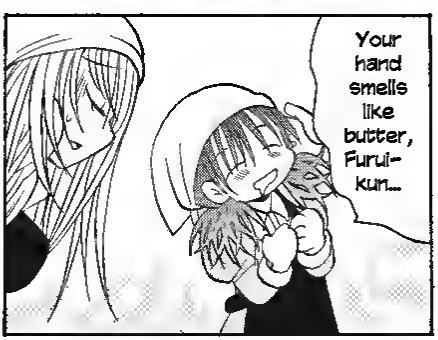

THEN WE THINNED OUT THE RESULT WITH PURIFIED WATER
AND ADDED THE CITRIC ACID, AND WE WERE DONE!


HEY... WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S—
THAT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT!!

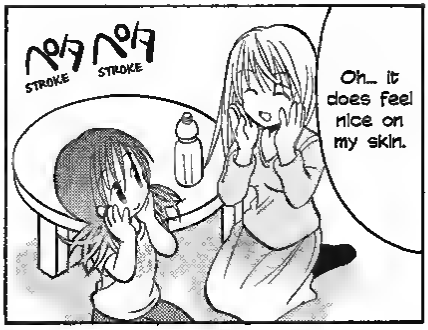

Ooh, it smells kind of lemony.
はぁ～ん...
AHHH...

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ENJOYING IT...
BUT NAKO
AHHH...
はぁ～ん...

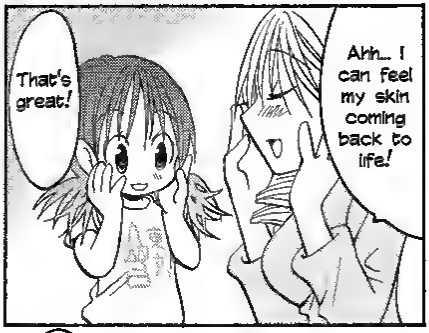

Rub it on your face! Don't drink it!!
.....

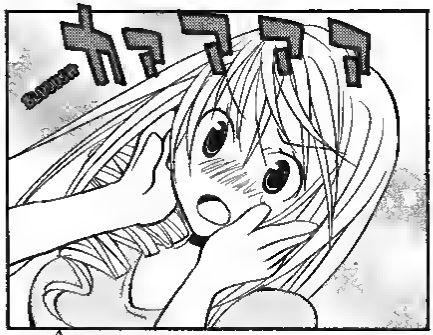

Your hand smells like butter, Furui-kun...

Wha—
It feels about the same as mine.


STROKE
STROKE
Oh... it does feel nice on my skin.

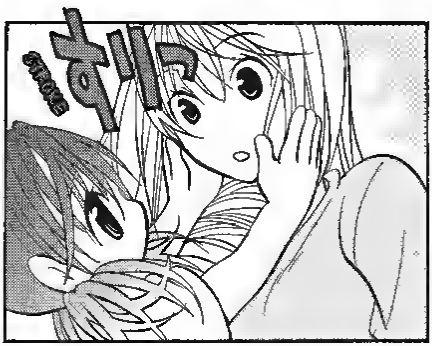
Your cheeks are
white and silky-smooth.
They feel good.


That's great!
Ahh... I can feel my skin coming back to life!

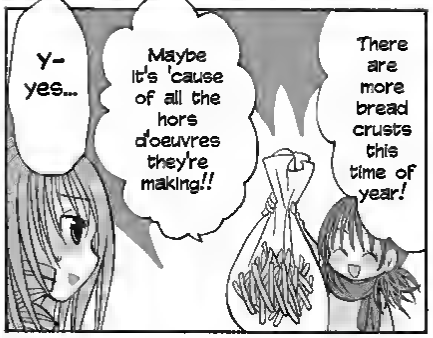

BLUSH

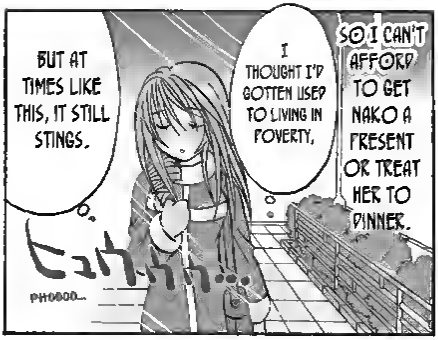
Really?
It's still not as silky-smooth as yours, though.

Hey! No fair!
GULP GULP
I-It sure is hot in here!


STROKE

プアプア 41
poor poor




SO I CAN'T AFFORD TO GET NAKO A PRESENT OR TREAT HER TO DINNER.
I THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN USED TO LIVING IN POVERTY,
BUT AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT STILL STINGS.
PHOOOO...

A-as you wish.
You can go tell that witch that I don't want her charity !!
ON CHRISTMAS EVE ...
Hello.
Watase ?! What are you doing here?!
And besides, if she wants to give me a present, she shouldn't ask me about it in advance.
It's like she's trying to call attention to her generosity.
Um... your mother...
told me to come find out something you wanted for Christmas.
...Miss,
are you familiar with the story "The Gift of the Magi"?
Y-yes.
Even though I've cut her off, I can still show my love for her
by giving her a present on Christmas, can't I?
That's what she told me.
"The Gift of the Mage Eye"? What's it about?
It's "Magi." Magi!
Oh, I could use a new phone.
Nobody asked you!

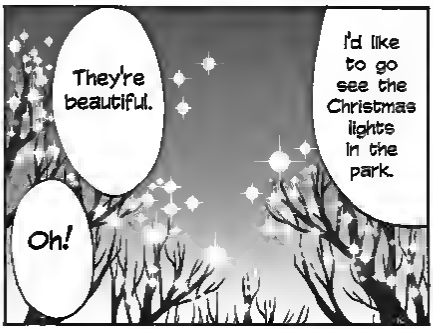
* In the original Nako mishears "kenja" ("magi") as "Kenji" (a Japanese name)

.....
People should discuss what presents they plan to get one another.

ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT JIM HAS PAWNED HIS WATCH TO BUY COMBS FOR HER, CORRECT?
DELLA SELLS HER HAIR TO BUY A CHAIN FOR HER HUSBAND JIM'S POCKET WATCH,

Some-thing I want...?
Nako, Is there anything you want?

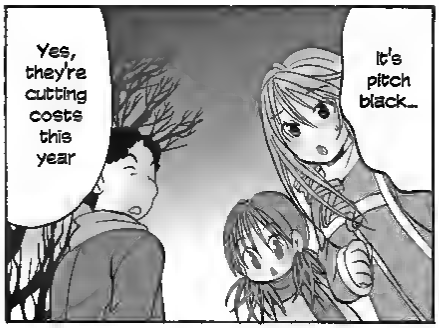
No, it's not!
is that people should discuss what presents they plan to get one another.
The moral of the story


They're beautiful.
I'd like to go see the Christmas lights in the park.
Oh!

Nako...
What a great story!

Now it's "The Little Match Girl" ?!
If I stare at them long enough, I start to hallucinate about food!
Ooh...
So beautiful...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

.....
that you can sell your hair!
Now I know...


Yes, they're cutting costs this year
It's pitch black...

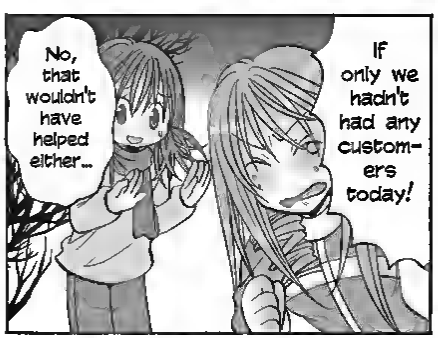
When we get off work tonight?
Okay!
Okay, why don't we go look at the Christmas lights

That's right when we got off work...
がっくり…
SLUMP...
by turning the lights off at 8 PM.

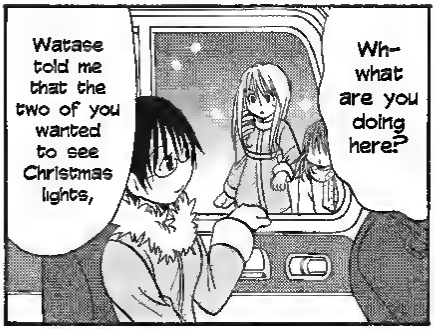
MONEY ISN'T EVERY-THING...
THAT'S RIGHT.

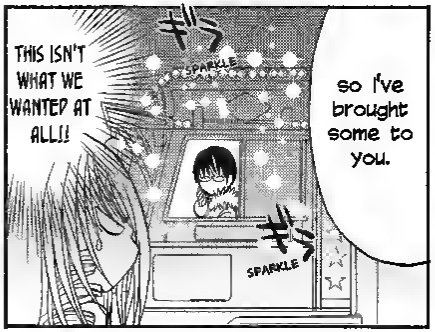
No, that wouldn't—
If only I'd worked faster!

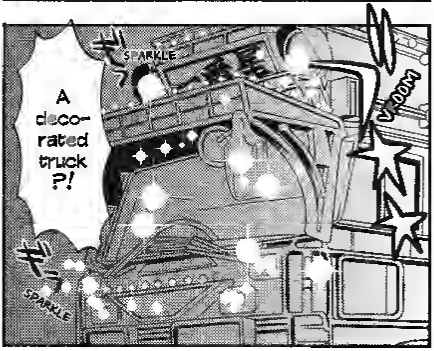
WE DON'T NEED IT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME.

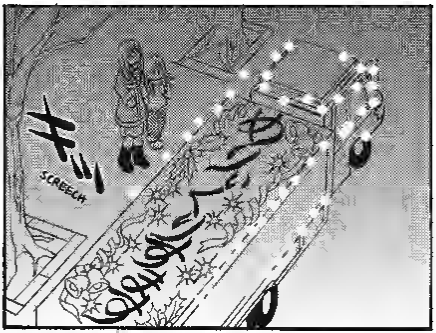

No, that wouldn't have helped either...
If only we hadn't had any customers today!

PHOOOO









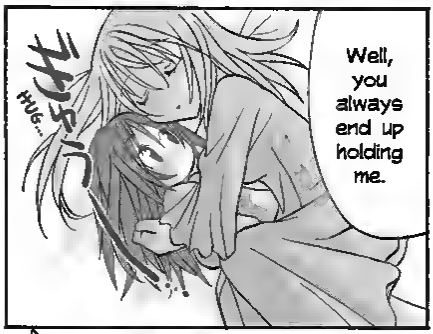
* Truck "Merry Christmas"

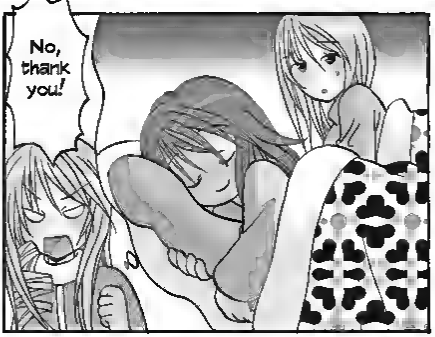
Ren-san!
She makes all the differ-ence.....
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
Mom...
what is this all about?
Well,
.....
I needed a pre-text like a Christ-mas present
if I wanted to see my stubborn daugh-ter.
It pains me to say this,
but thank you
for what you did today.
To be honest,
I thought you'd give up within the first month.
THE THING I WANT MOST IN THE WORLD
IS TO SEE HER SMILE.
I know.
I wouldn't have lasted a day on my own.

プアプア42
poor poor

I MUST BE MAKING NAKO UNCOMFORTABLE.
WELL, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
That's pretty generous for him.
Wow, we have $500 combined!
Let's go to the store in the market district!
Okay... let's go buy some new bedding.
Hey, Ren-san,
why don't we get another set of bedding?
Why is a bedding store your favorite?
This is my favorite store!
I think sharing a bed might be making it harder for us to get a good night's sleep.
Wh-what brought this on?
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO GET A LAUGH OUT OF HER, DOES IT?
The prices on our UNION will have you grinnin'! Looking for covers? We've got you covered!
Ahahaha!
Their posters are always hilarious!
That's —
sigh
You keep sighing.....

* More literally, the sign reads, "Our bedding [futon] is so cheap, it's flying off [futtobu] the shelves! We have a wide variety [mou fundan ni] of blankets [moufu]!!"

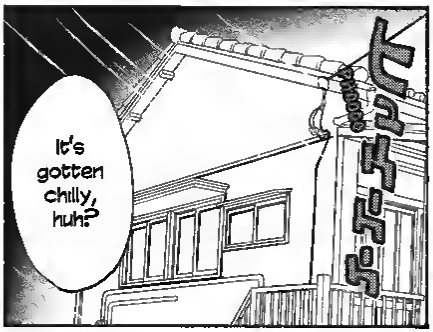


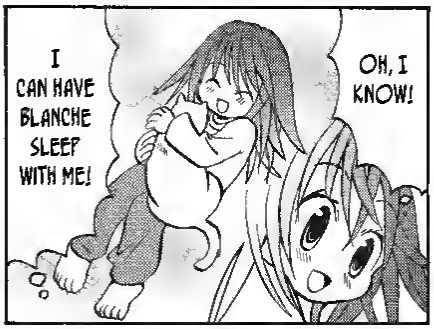


* The Yes/No pillow is supposed to be used by a wife to indicate to her husband that she's "in the mood."

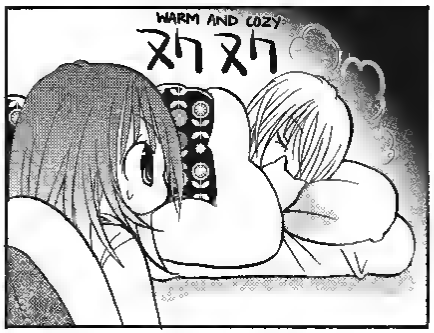
You should try it out too, Ren-san.
Wh-what are you-
Ooh,
it's so soft and fluffy!
Then you'll
want to sleep in it too.
You should use this one, Ren-san.
Oh, I couldn't. You take it!
BLUSH...
.....
Now that I've seen how happy the new one makes you,
I couldn't possibly consign you to that old, cold one.
Doesn't it feel great?
It's nice, isn't it?
Yes, I get it! Please stop!
もふぉ
SMOOSH
Eek!

IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE NEVER SLEPT ALONE BEFORE!
ぬおぉぉ
NNGGHHHH!
WELL, I CAN HANDLE IT!

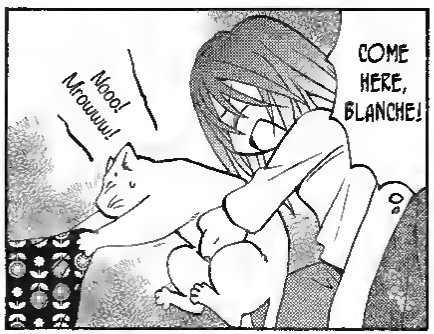

It's gotten chilly, huh?
ピュー

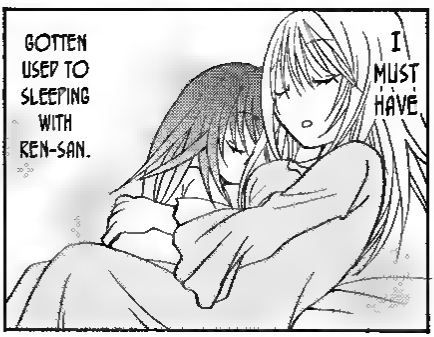

I CAN HAVE BLANCHE SLEEP WITH ME!
OH, I KNOW!

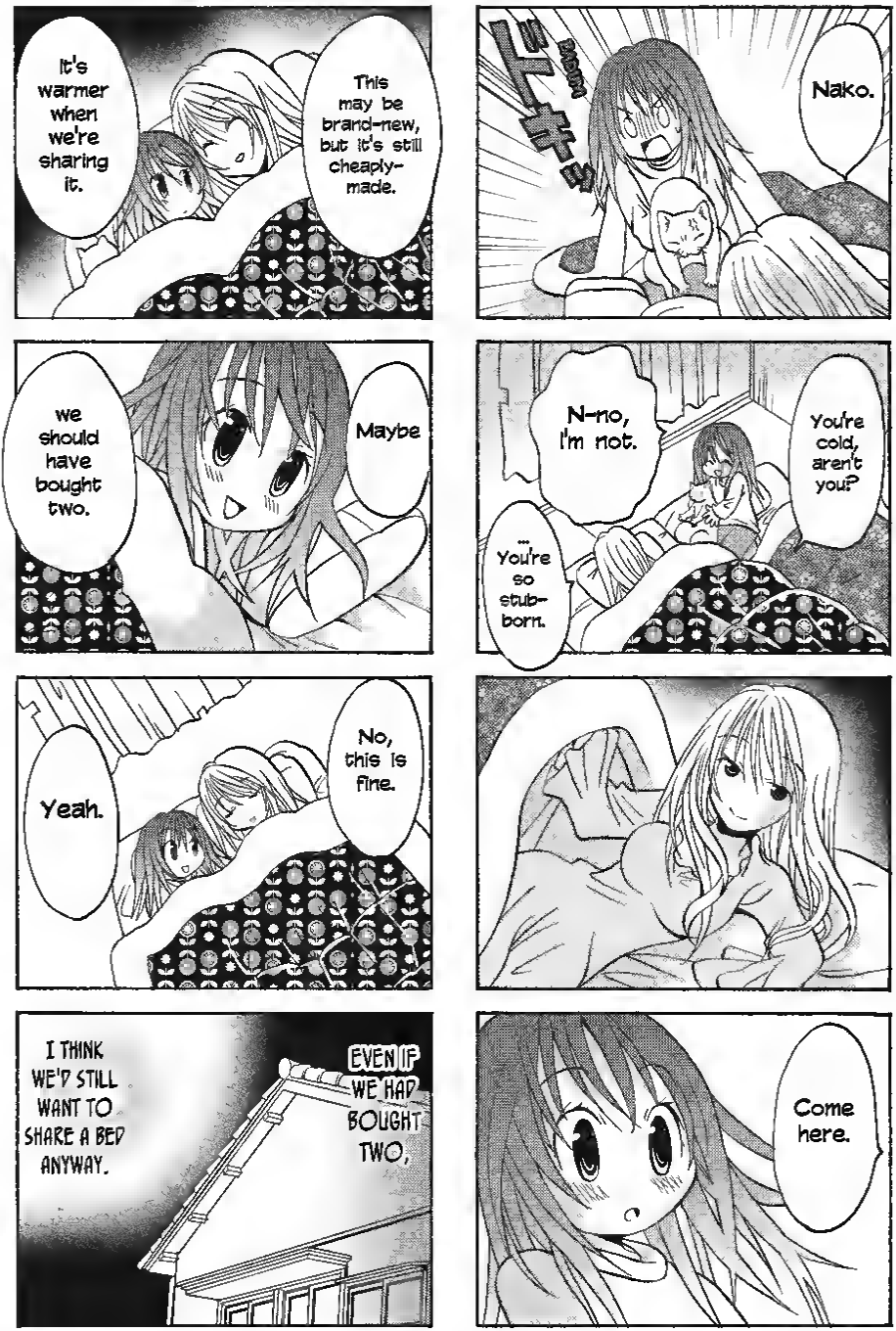
N-night.
Good night, Ren-san.


WARM AND COZY
スリスリ

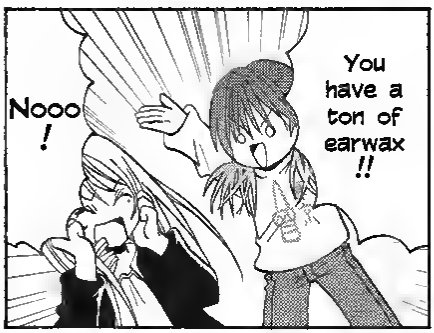
IT'S FREEZING IN HERE!
URK!
ひぇ
CHILLY~

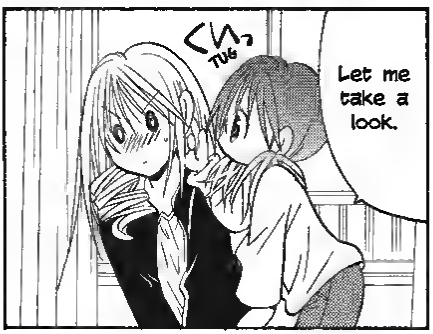

COME HERE, BLANCHE!
Nooo! Mrouuuu!


I MUST HAVE GOTTEN USED TO SLEEPING WITH REN-SAN.

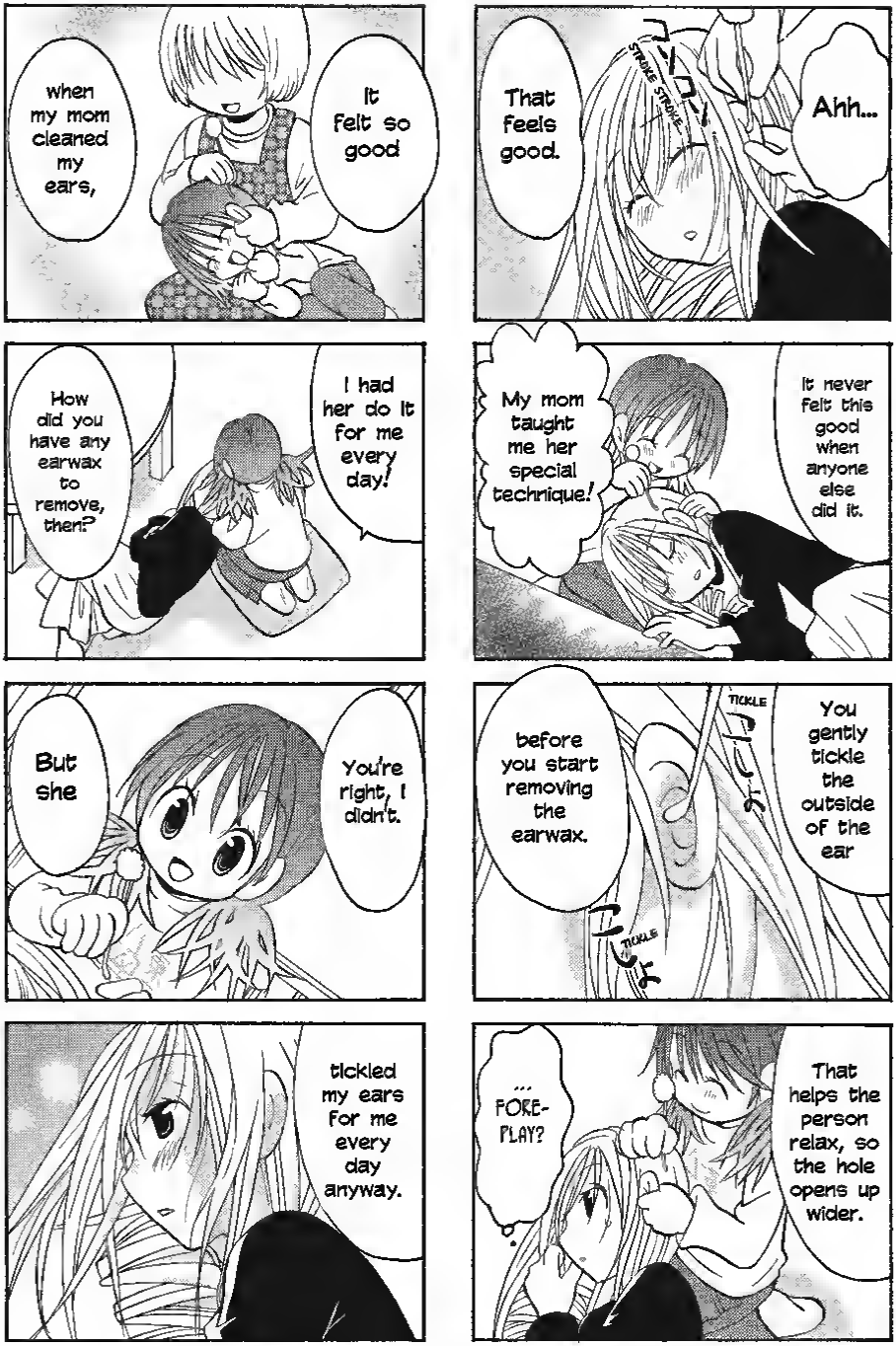

It's warmer when we're sharing it.
This may be brand-new, but it's still cheaply-made.
Nako.
we should have bought two.
Maybe
N-no, I'm not.
You're cold, aren't you?
...You're so stubborn.
Yeah.
No, this is fine.
I THINK WE'D STILL WANT TO SHARE A BED ANYWAY.
EVEN IF WE HAD BOUGHT TWO,
Come here.

プアプア 43
poor poor



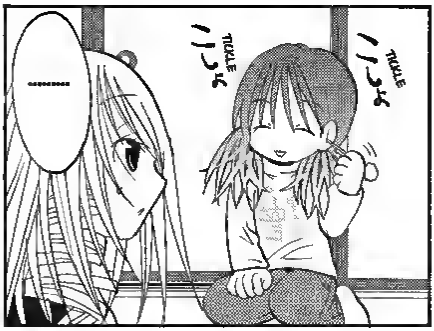


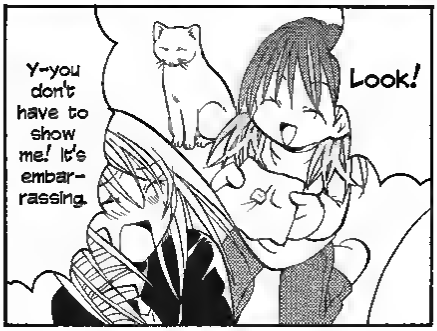
What?!
please let me clean your ears!
Ren-san,
PAT PAT
I've never cleaned my own ears.
Come to think of it...
How else would I clean your ears?
Y-you want me to put my head in your lap?
and when I grew up, I had it done at my favorite salon.
Watase did it for me when I was little,
That's my favorite kind to clean.
Your earwax is like pie crust...
sigh...
NAKO SAW A FILTHY PART OF MY BODY. IT WAS JUST MY EAR, BUT EVEN SO...
HOW EMBARRASSING...
SHE TAKES PLEASURE IN THE SIMPLEST THINGS.
I'm so happy...
Huh?
GASP
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
GASP

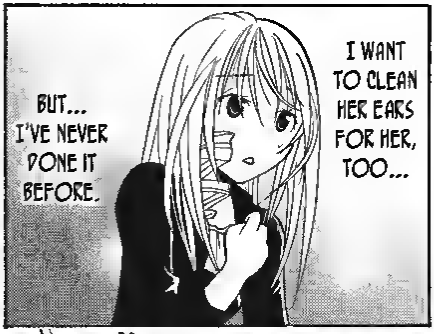

when my mom cleaned my ears,
It felt so good
That feels good.
STROKE STROKE
Ahh...
How did you have any earwax to remove, then?
I had her do it for me every day!
My mom taught me her special technique!
It never felt this good when anyone else did it.
But she
You're right, I didn't.
before you start removing the earwax.
TICKLE
TICKLE
You gently tickle the outside of the ear
tickled my ears for me every day anyway.
... FORE-PLAY?
That helps the person relax, so the hole opens up wider.

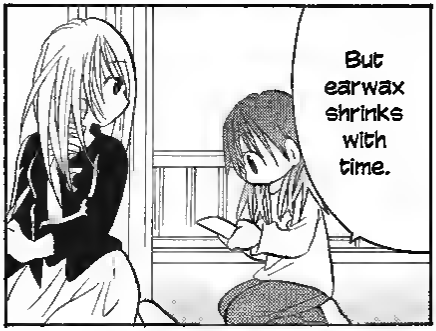
Why do you have so many of those, anyway?
I'll clean my own ears while I'm at it.

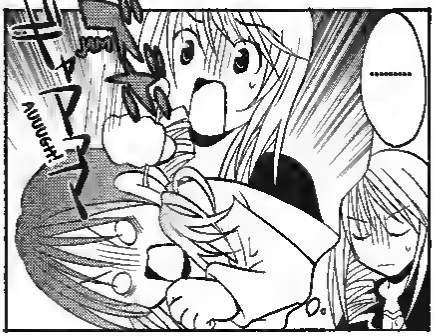
I got a nice big one...
SIGH...
Ahhhh.

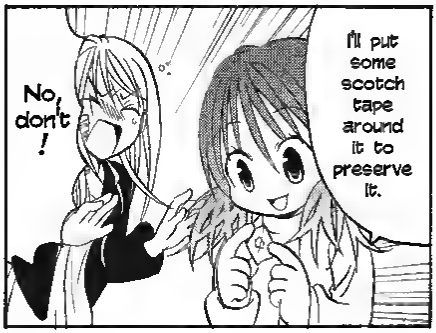

.....
TICKLE
TICKLE

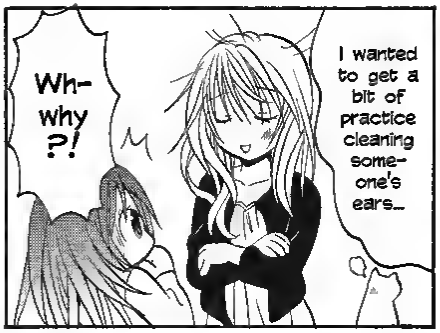

Y-you don't have to show me! It's embarrassing.
Look!


BUT... I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE.
I WANT TO CLEAN HER EARS FOR HER, TOO...

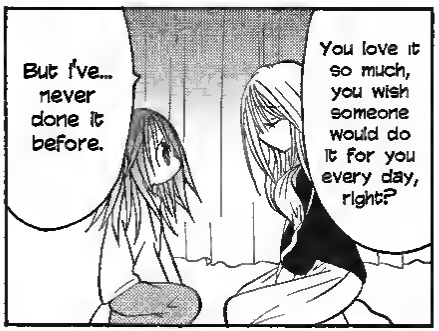

But earwax shrinks with time.

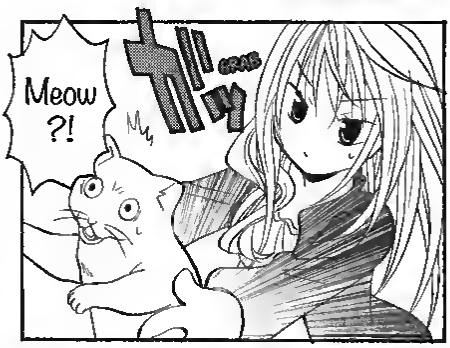

.....
AUUUGH!!


No, don't!
I'll put some scotch tape around it to preserve it.

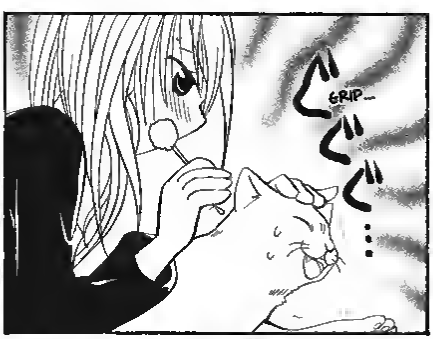

Wh-why ?!
I wanted to get a bit of practice cleaning some-one's ears...

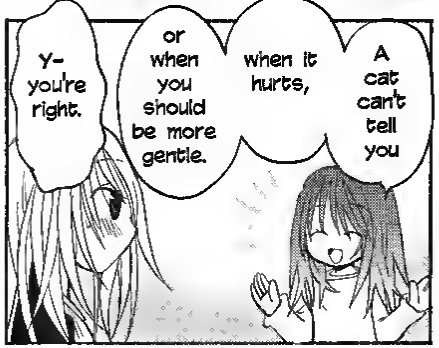
THAT NIGHT ...
zzz...

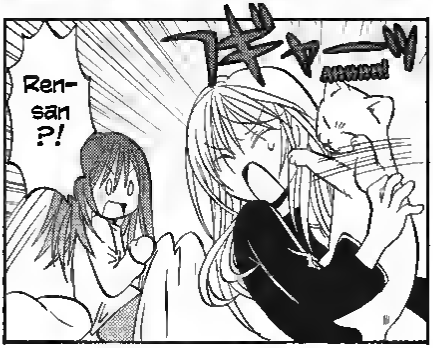

But I've... never done it before.
You love it so much, you wish someone would do it for you every day, right?

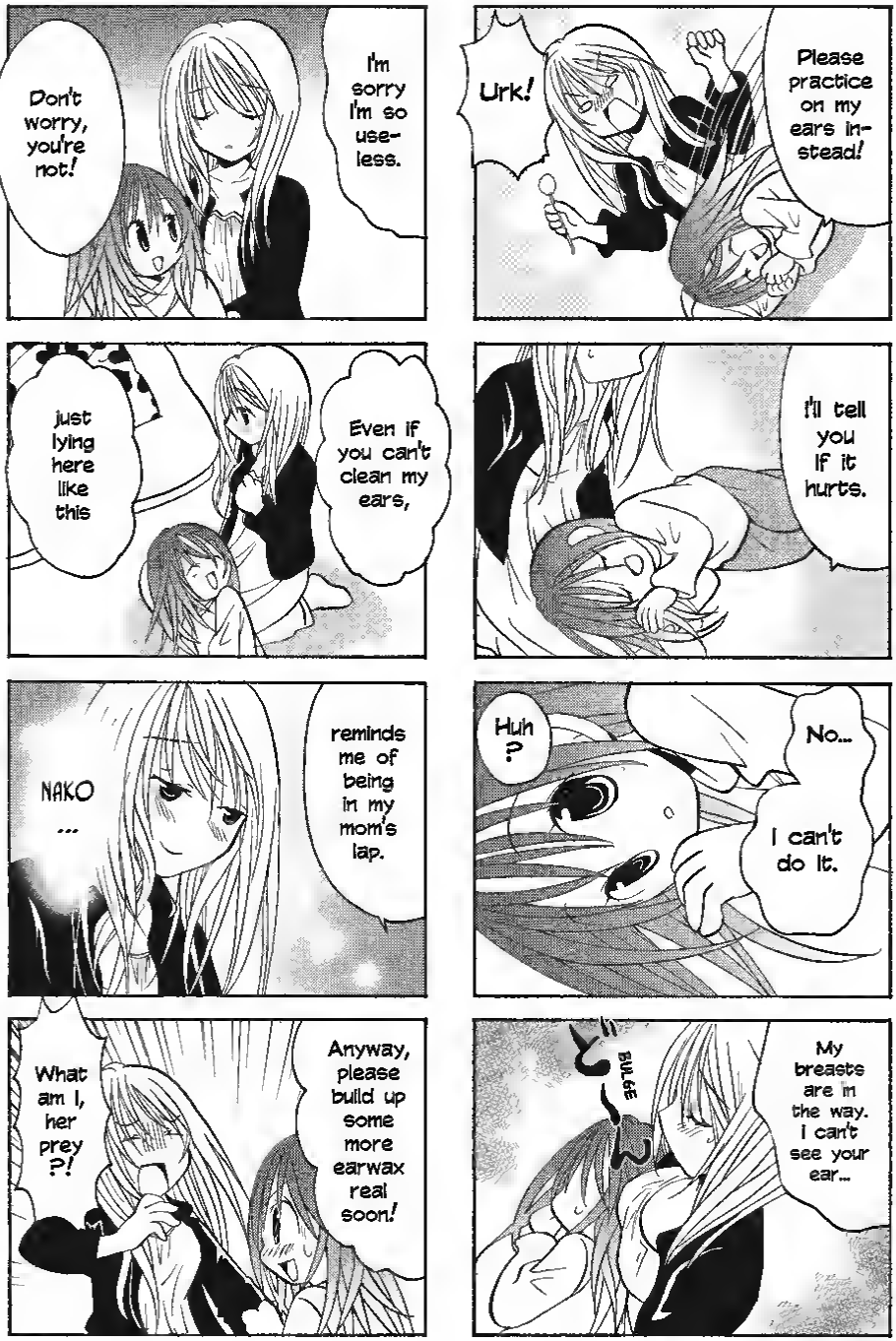

Meow ?!
GRAB

You should practice on a person, then.
Oh, is that all?

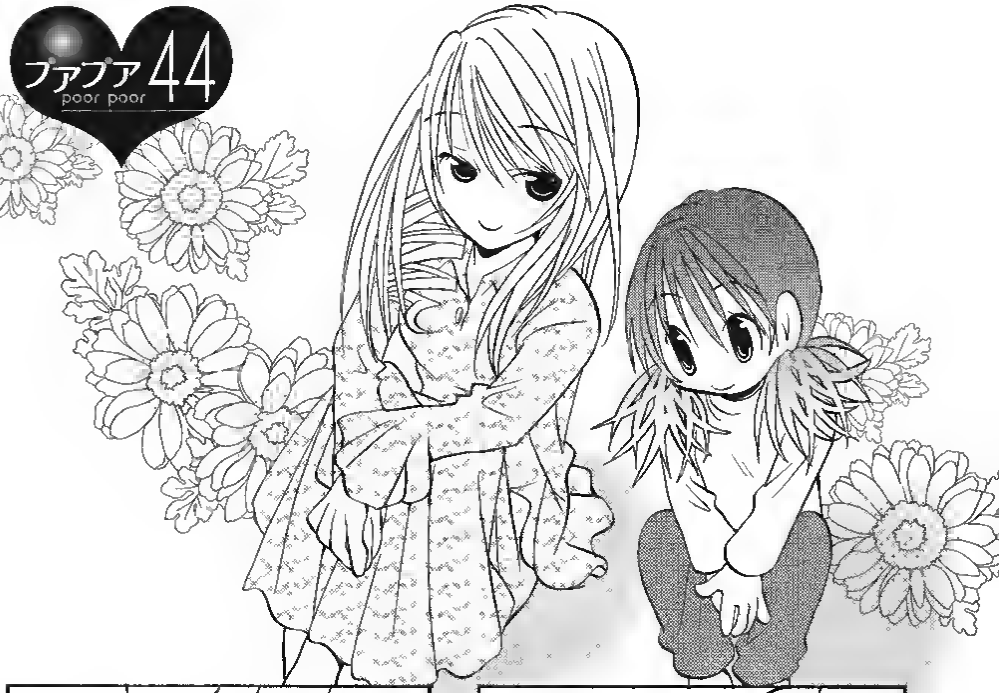

GRIP...

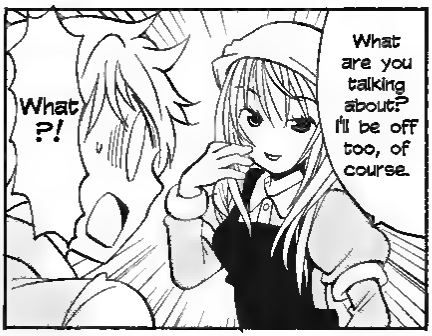

Y-you're right.
or when you should be more gentle.
when it hurts,
A cat can't tell you

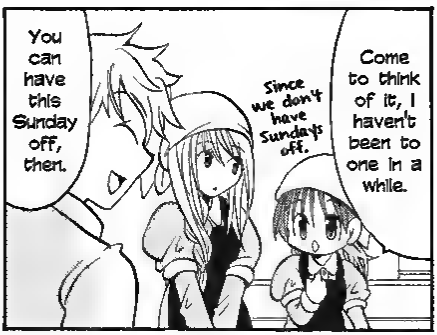

Ren-san ?!
AHHHH!


I'm sorry I'm so use-less.
Don't worry, you're not!
Urk!
Please practice on my ears in-stead!
Even if you can't clean my ears,
just lying here like this
I'll tell you if it hurts.
reminds me of being in my mom's lap.
NAKO ...
Huh ?
No...
I can't do it.
Anyway, please build up some more earwax real soon!
What am I, her prey ?!
BULGE
My breasts are in the way. I can't see your ear...

プアプア44
poor poor

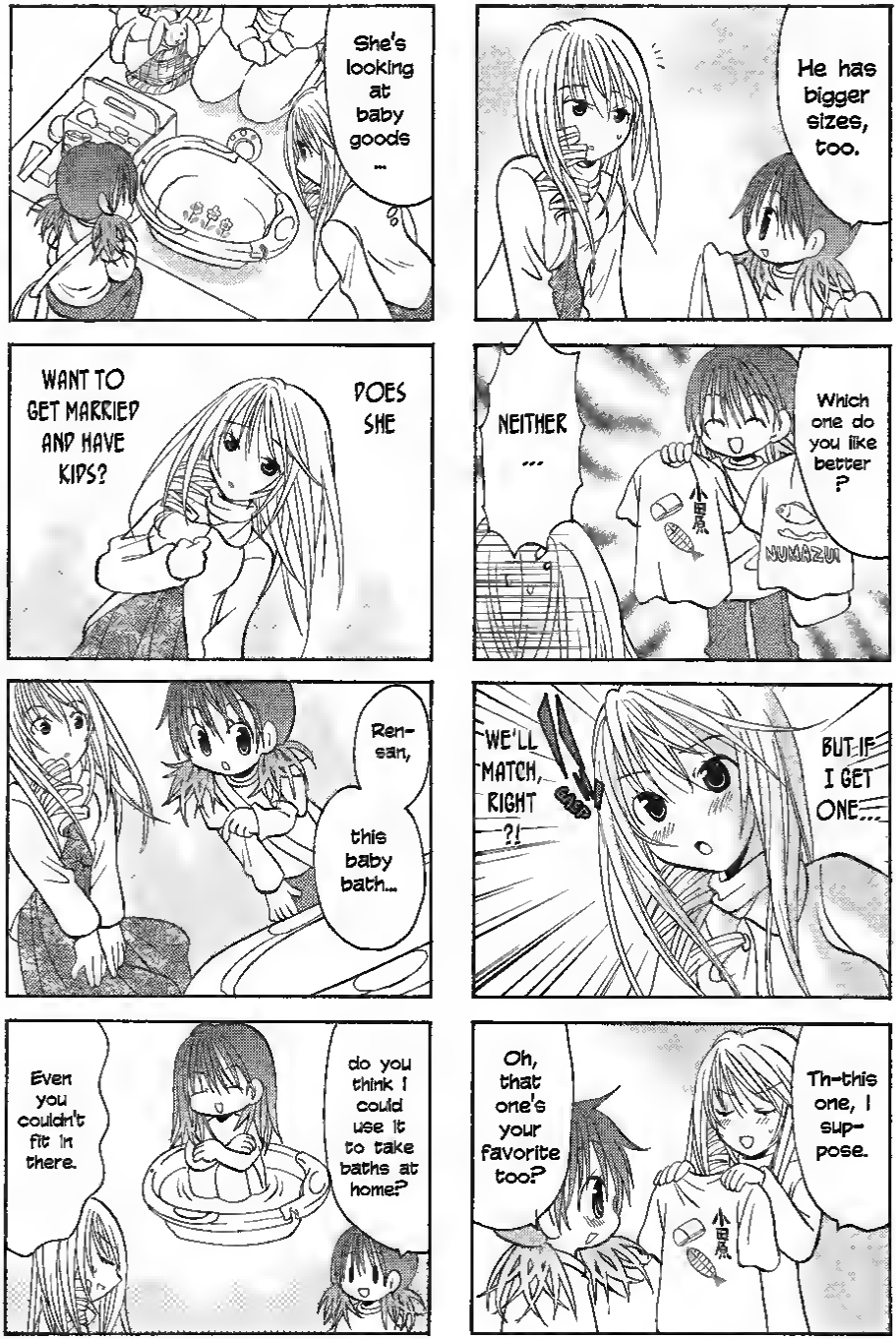




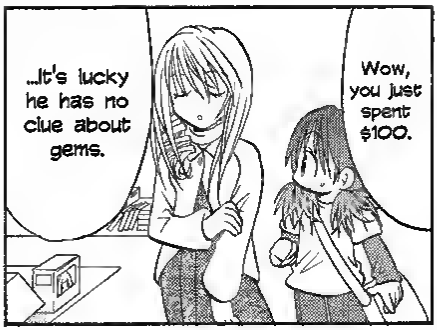


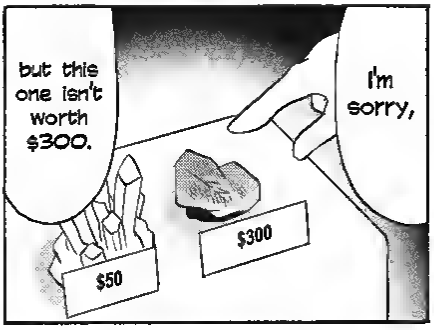
Oh! Hi, mister!
Hey, Nako-chan. Long time no see!
CHATTER
CHATTER
Wow, it's packed!
He sells the defective ones here.
He makes souvenir t-shirts.
Oh, you haven't?
I've never been to a flea market before.
WHAT BIZARRE T-SHIRTS. NO MATTER HOW CHEAP THEY ARE, I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE WOULD—
THUD
I have some new designs!
NUMAZU!
It's just what you'd expect from a "free market"!
It's fun! People sell all sorts of stuff.
SHE ACTUALLY LIKES THEM?!
They're both great! I don't know which to pick.
Huh?!
This kind of flea.
It means a market with fleas.
Nako... it's "flea," not "free."

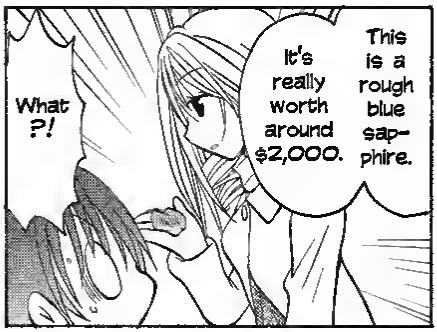
* In Japanese the English words "flea" and "free" can both be rendered as "furi."

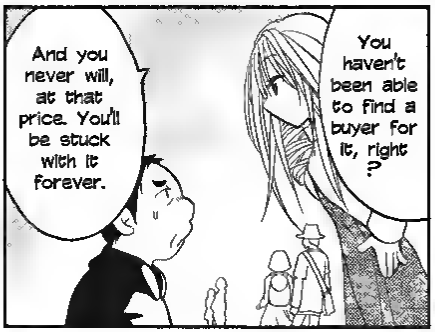

She's looking at baby goods ...
He has bigger sizes, too.
WANT TO GET MARRIED AND HAVE KIDS?
DOES SHE
NEITHER ...
Which one do you like better ?
NUMAZU
Ren-san,
this baby bath...
WE'LL MATCH, RIGHT ?!
BUT IF I GET ONE...
Even you couldn't fit in there.
do you think I could use it to take baths at home?
Oh, that one's your favorite too?
Th-this one, I sup-pose.

They even sell power stones here.
Yeah, they have a lot.
A radio?
I just remembered— I've been wanting to get a radio.
I want to at least listen to the news every day.
.....
STARE...
Ren-san?
I'd be scared to buy any electronics from a place like this, though.
They could be broken, and there's no warranty.
How about this one?
It's an emergency radio, with a hand crank!
Do you purchase these yourself?
No, I just sell whatever comes through.
These are from a store that closed down last year.
IT MUST'VE BEEN REN-SAN'S!
See? Listen!!
WIND UP, WIND UP, WIND ME UP!
SHE'S GOING TO DO THAT EVERY DAY, EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT EVEN AN EMERGENCY?

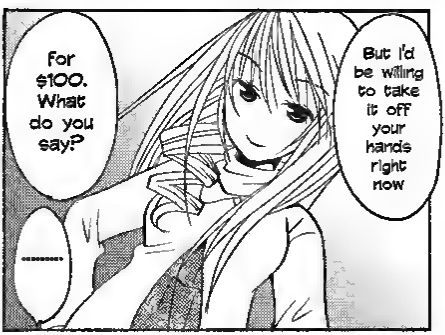

Wow, you just spent $100.
...It's lucky he has no clue about gems.


I'm sorry,
but this one isn't worth $300.
$300
$50


This is a rough blue sapphire.
It's really worth around $2,000.
What ?!

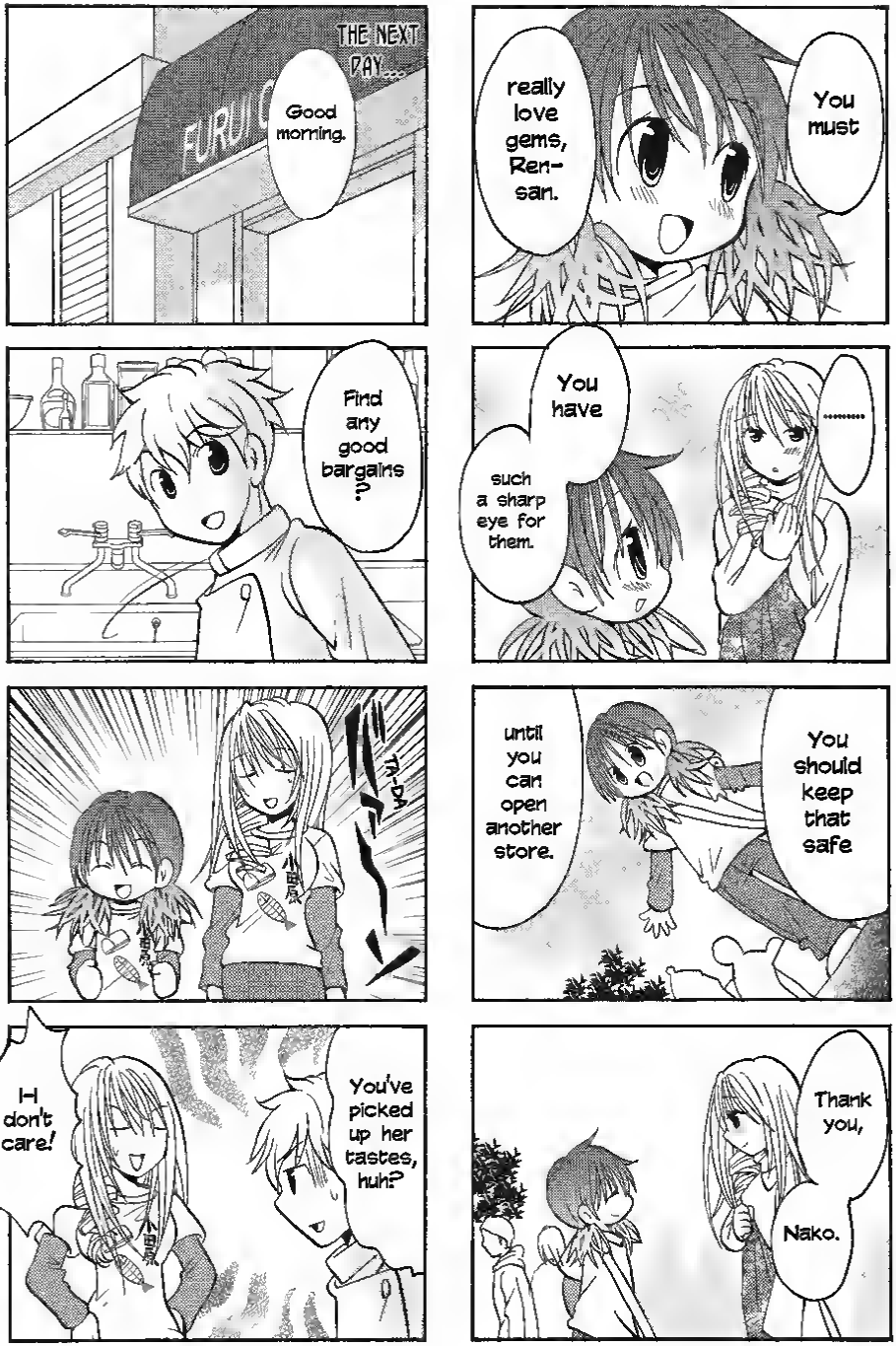

You haven't been able to find a buyer for it, right ?
And you never will, at that price. You'll be stuck with it forever.

If we can sell this to a real store, we'll get a little extra money to help make ends meet.
No,

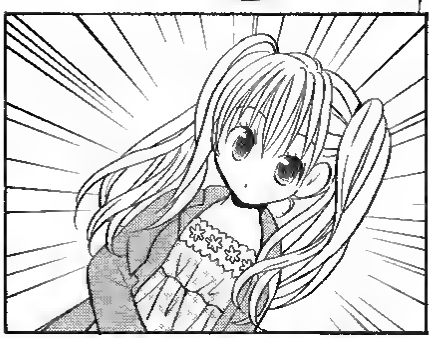

But I'd be willing to take it off your hands right now
For $100. What do you say?
.....

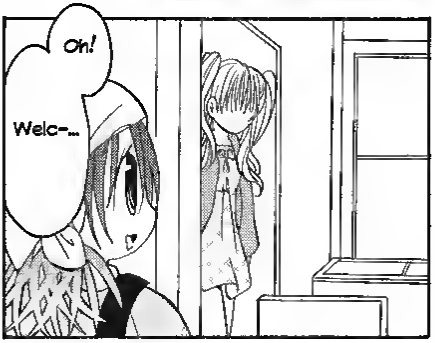
you
should keep it.

SPLASH
Fine!
Take it!!


THE NEXT DAY....
FURUI
Good morning.
You must really love gems, Ren-san.
Find any good bargains?
You have such a sharp eye for them.
.....
TA-DA
until you can open another store.
You should keep that safe
You've picked up her tastes, huh?
H don't care!
Thank you, Nako.

ファファ45
poor poor



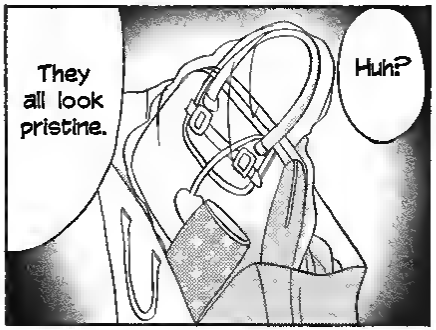


Don't make fun of Ren-san!
Wh-what the heck?!
.....
Huh?
Ren?!
Ren-san?
Nako, that's enough.
You're working HERE now?!
I thought you had your own store.
Nako, you apologize too.
Please forgive us. We value your business.
AHAHAHAHAHA!
Oh, how the mighty have fallen!
Forgive us...

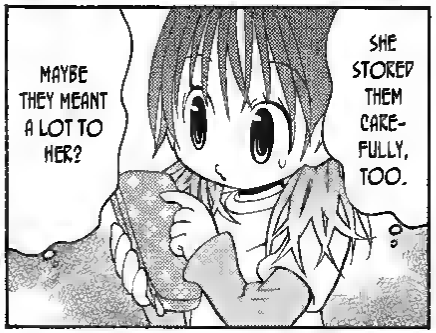
.....
I guess even you have stuff that pisses you off
Y'know, I've never seen you get mad like that.
What do you think you're doing, Okashi?
I could hear you all the way from the kitchen.
But she was mean to Ren-san.....
She
was only dating Ren-san for her money.
And
Don't you think that was because of what you did to her?
And she didn't buy anything anyway.
she said that Ren-san uses her money
to manipulate people!!
Whatever they say to us, we just have to put up with it.
No matter who our customers are, we treat them with respect.
Plus she said she's Ren-san's type!
Why is that the part that bugs you the most?
GRAB
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S SECRETLY HAPPY ABOUT WHAT OKASHI DID.

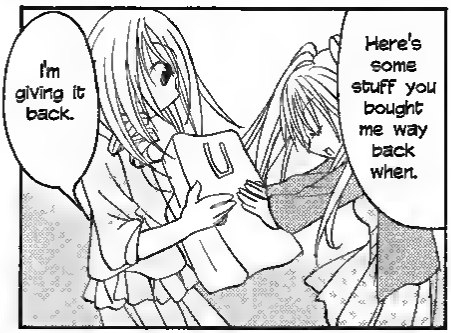
I'm sure this stuff is all falling apart by now.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

Good work today!

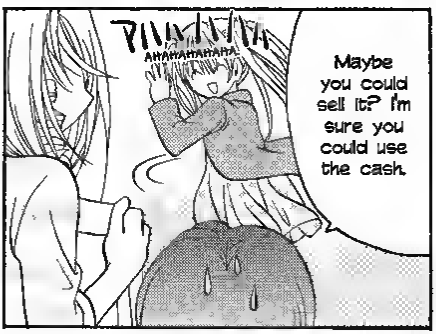

Huh?
They all look pristine.

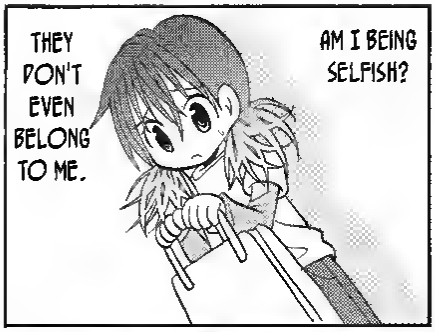
Urk!
Ren.


SHE STORED THEM CAREFULLY, TOO.
MAYBE THEY MEANT A LOT TO HER?


Here's some stuff you bought me way back when.
I'm giving it back.

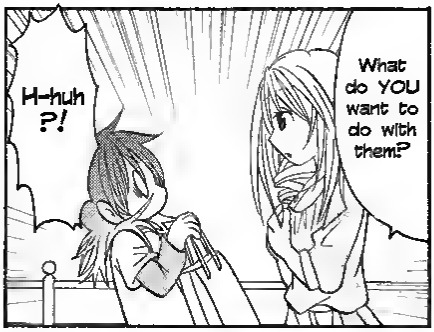
WHY DOES THAT BOTHER ME EVEN MORE ?!
WH-WHAT?
どよどよ GLOOM GLOOM
どよどよ GLOOM GLOOM

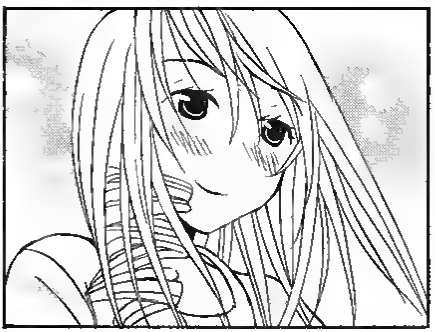

PIIIIIIIII AHAHAHAHAHAHA
Maybe you could sell it? I'm sure you could use the cash.

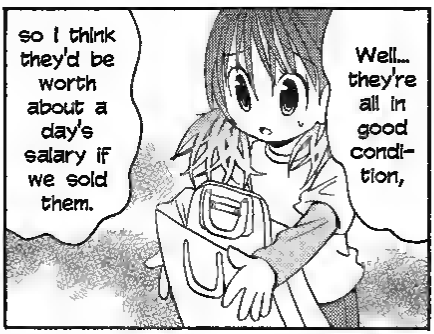

THEY DON'T EVEN BELONG TO ME.
AM I BEING SELFISH?

.....
Ren-san... what do you want to do with these?

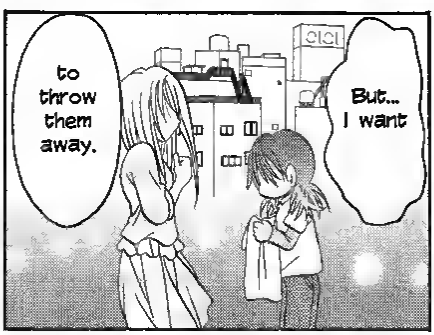
TURNING INTO A TERRIBLE PERSON?
GUNGE~
AM I...


H-huh ?!
What do YOU want to do with them?



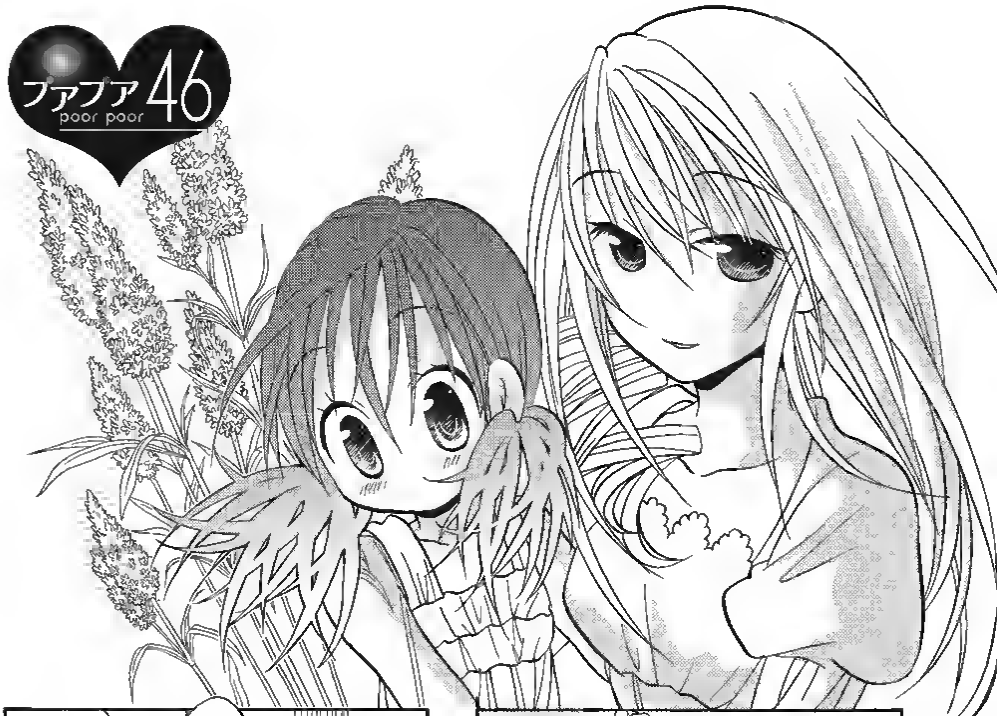

so I think they'd be worth about a day's salary if we sold them.
Well... they're all in good condition,

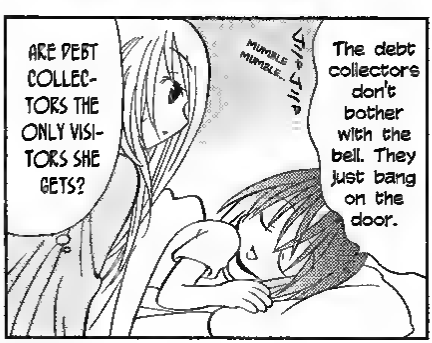
Huh ?!
Okay, let's toss them!


to throw them away.
But... I want

So
would you see if your mother wants them?
Um,
Nako...
THUD
ボスッ
to tell you the truth, I was glad you got mad.
.....
You took her treatment of me as a personal insult.
Ha-haha.
Your jealousy was no match for the habits you've picked up from being poor, huh?
What?!
So when I got upset ... that was jealousy?!
Wait, you didn't even realize that?!
ポロ…
DRIP...
!
Ren-san...
IT WAS SO CUTE
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE...
HOW NAKO GOT JEAL-OUS.
うぅ～…
AUGH!
It's too waste-ful!
H just can't do it!

プアプア46
poor poor

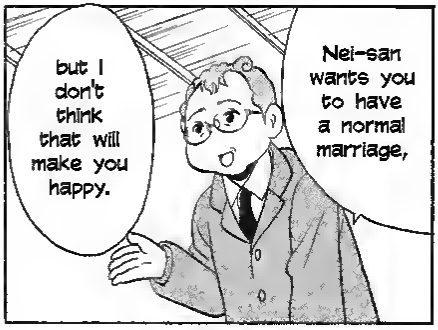


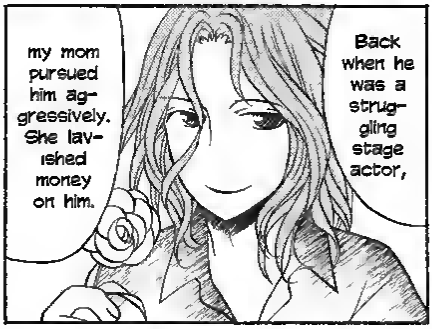

ARE DEBT COLLECTORS THE ONLY VISITORS SHE GETS?
MUMBLE MUMBLE...
The debt collectors don't bother with the bell. They just bang on the door.

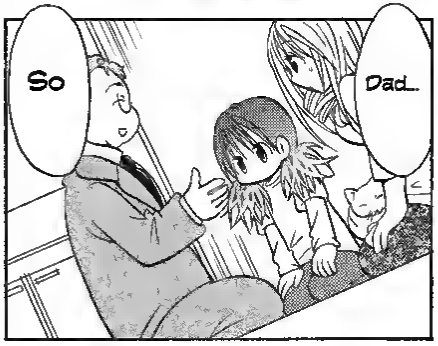
Otsuka Akio.
It's nice to meet you. I'm Ren's father,
Nrgh. Be right there.
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
Nei-san said I couldn't see you!
Ren's mother, Nei.
I've been worried sick about you, Ren.
Ack!
Whoosh
Ren!
spent a year trying to persuade her,
But I
U-um...
My poor dear! Look how much you've wasted away! You've shrunk!
It took you a year just to get that much out of her?
and she finally gave me permission to come see you.
Oh! You're not Ren.
Dad !!

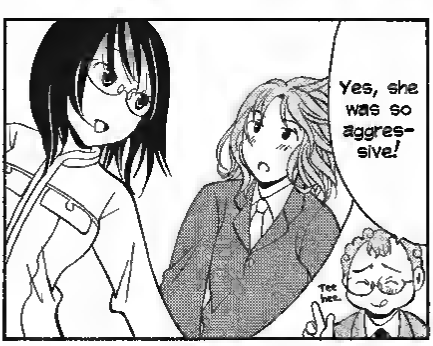
Well...
So, what are you doing here?

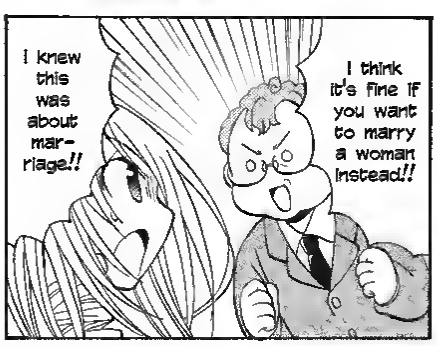
My dad
can never stand up to my mom.

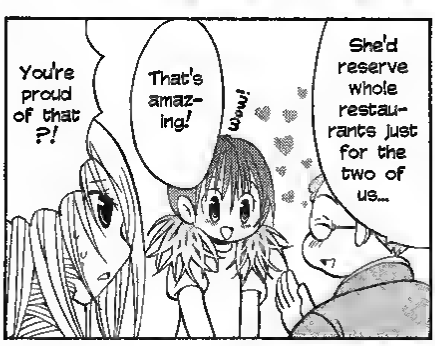

but I don't think that will make you happy.
Nei-san wants you to have a normal marriage,

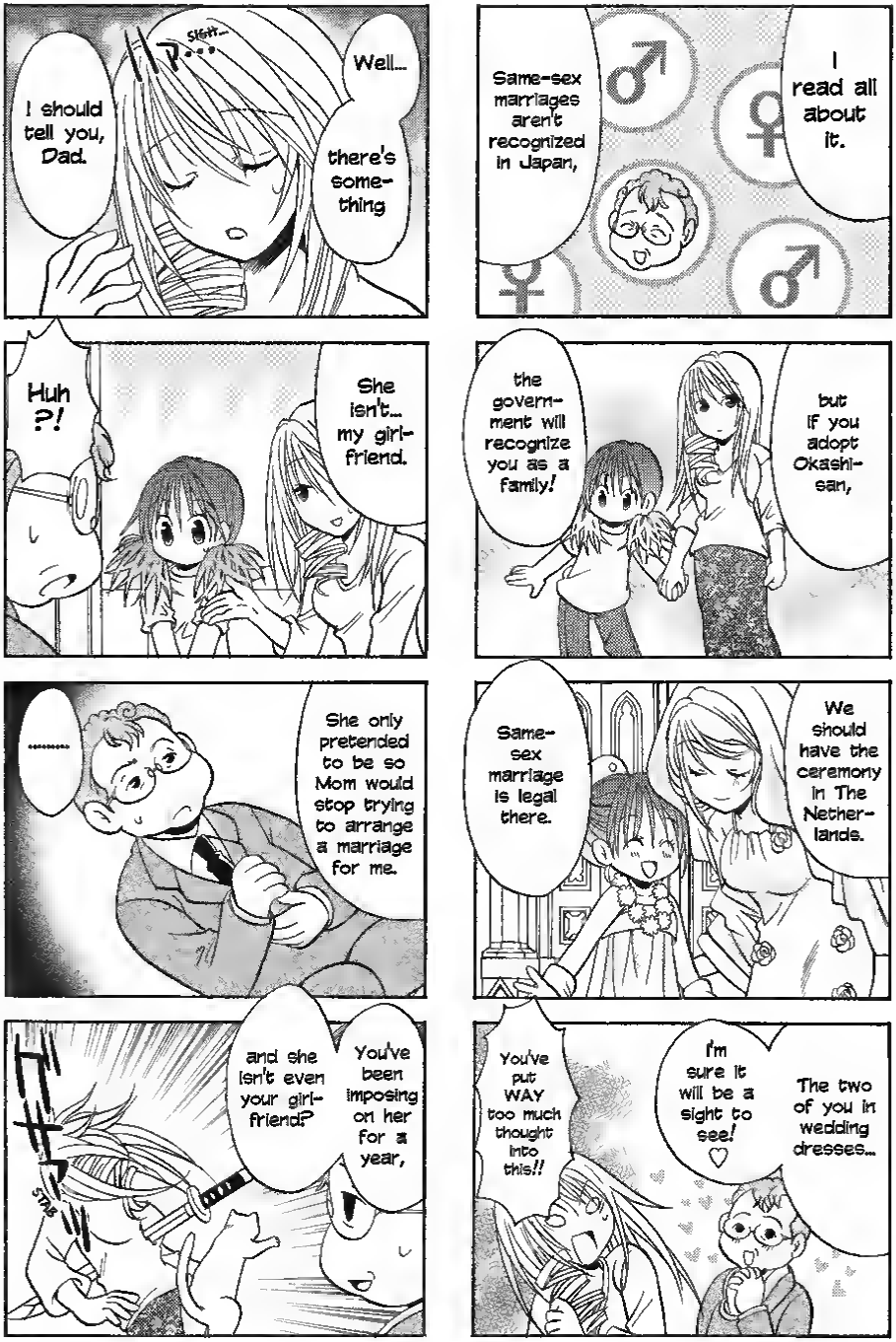

my mom pursued him aggressively. She lavished money on him.
Back when he was a struggling stage actor,


So
Dad...

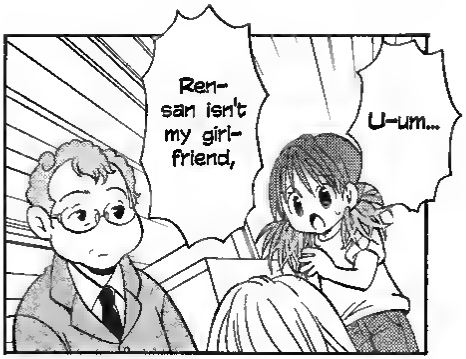

Yes, she was so aggressive!
Tee hee...


I knew this was about marriage!!
I think it's fine if you want to marry a woman instead!!

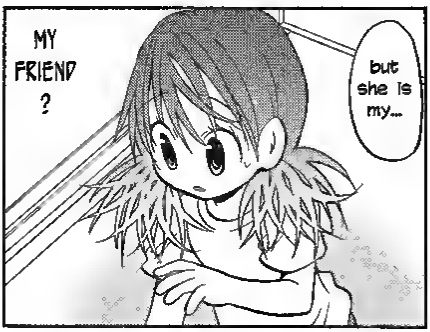

You're proud of that?!
That's amazing!
Wow!
She'd reserve whole restaurants just for the two of us...


I should tell you, Dad.
Sigh...
Well...
there's something
Same-sex marriages aren't recognized in Japan,
I read all about it.
Huh?!
She isn't... my girlfriend.
the government will recognize you as a family!
but if you adopt Okashi-san,
.....
She only pretended to be so Mom would stop trying to arrange a marriage for me.
Same-sex marriage is legal there.
We should have the ceremony in The Netherlands.
and she isn't even your girlfriend?
You've been imposing on her for a year,
STUS
You've put WAY too much thought into this!!
I'm sure it will be a sight to see!
The two of you in wedding dresses...

Um...
Your what? What is she to you?

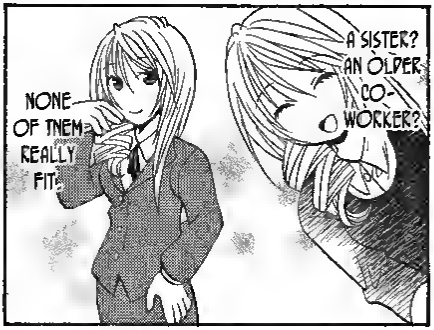

U-um...
Ren-san isn't my girl-friend,

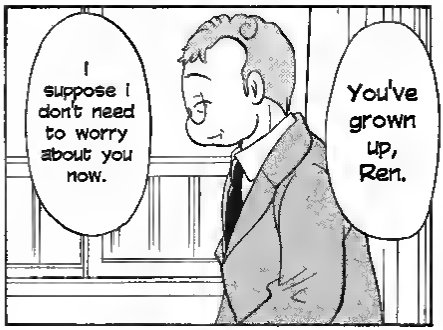
Some-one who means a lot to me... I guess...

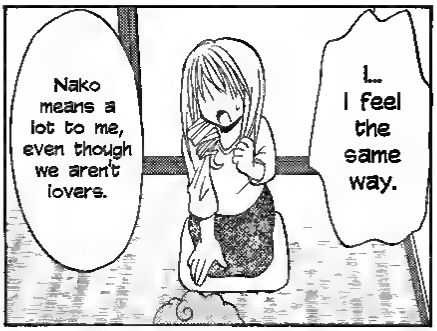

MY FRIEND ?
but she is my...

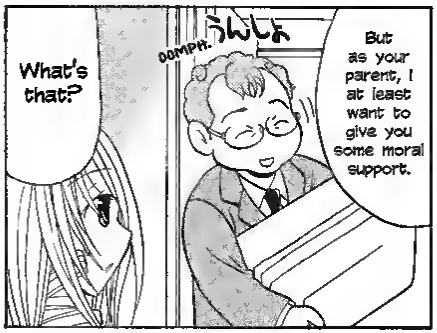
A FRIEND IS... SOMEONE MORE LIKE FURUI-KUN.
Huh ?!
THAT DOESN'T QUITE FIT.

What ?!
That sounds like me and Nei-san!

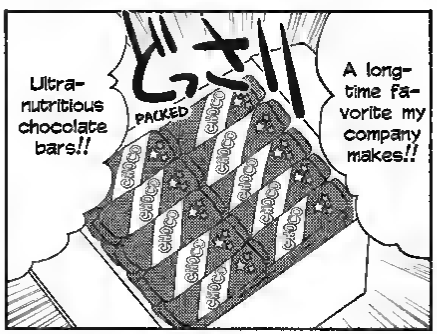

NONE OF THEM REALLY FIT.
A SISTER? AN OLDER CO-WORKER?

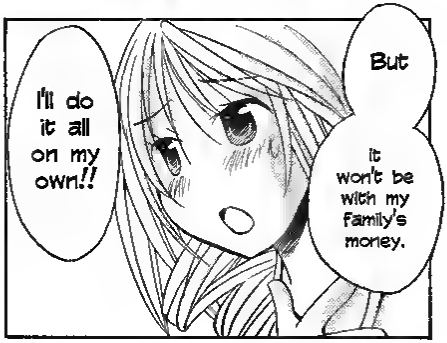

You've grown up, Ren.
I suppose I don't need to worry about you now.

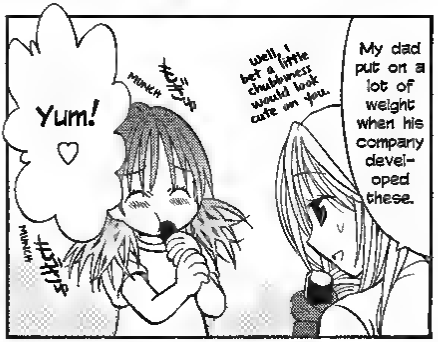

I... I feel the same way.
Nako means a lot to me, even though we aren't lovers.

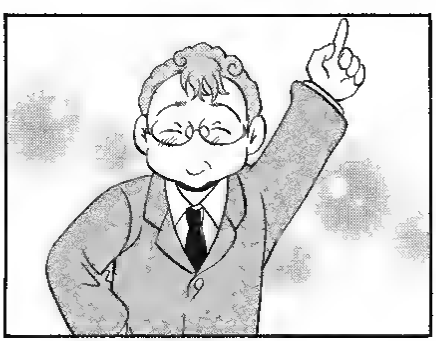

But as your parent, I at least want to give you some moral support.
OOMPH.
What's that?

Someday I'll repay you for taking me in like this.
I prom-ise!

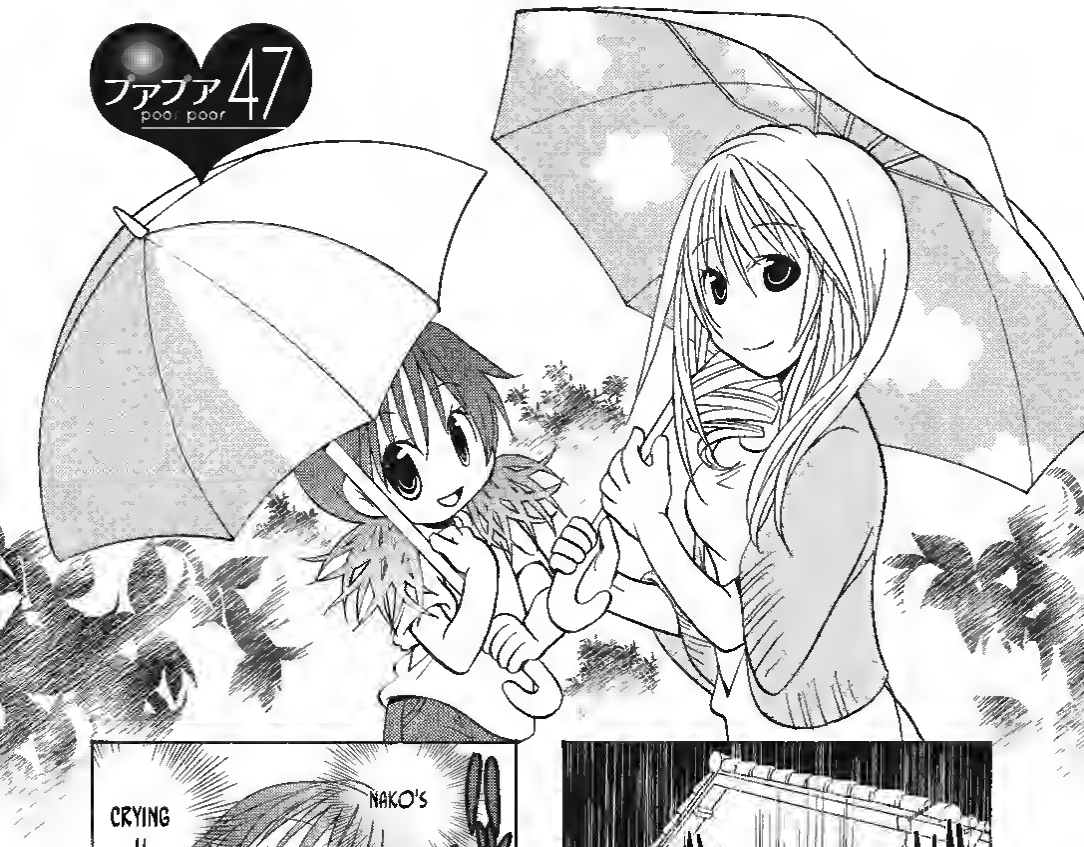

A long-time favorite my company makes!!
PACKED
CHOCO
Ultra-nutritious chocolate bars!!

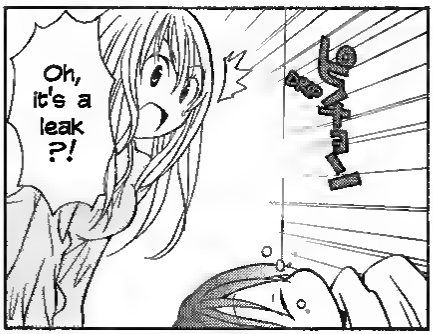

But it won't be with my family's money.
I'll do it all on my own!!

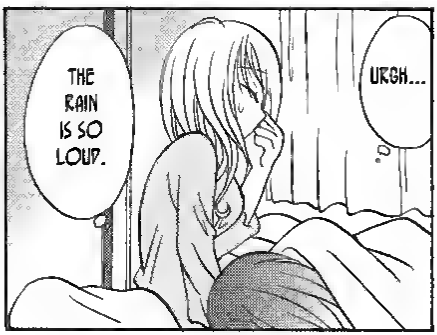

My dad put on a lot of weight when his company developed these.
Well, a little bit a chubbiness would look cute on you.
MUNCH
Yum!
♡



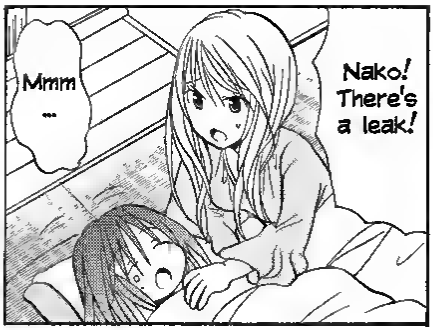
プアプア47
poor poor

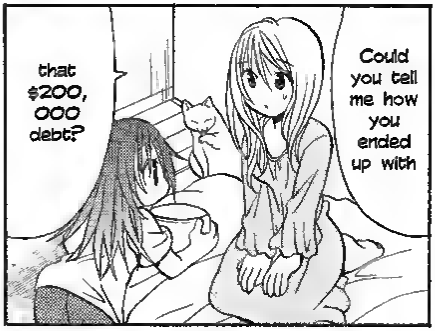


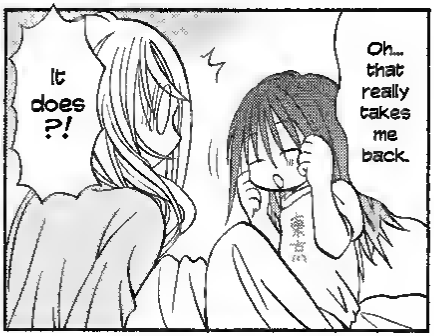


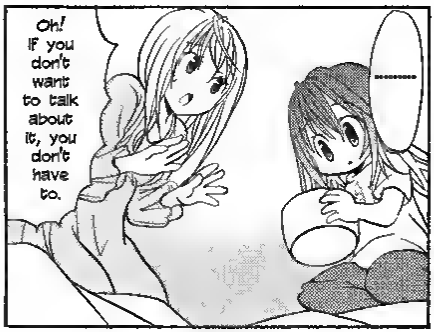


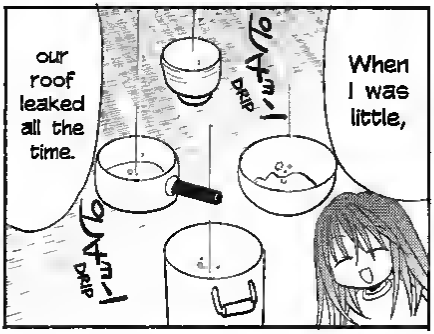
Nako --
you...
well... you grew up in poverty, didn't you?

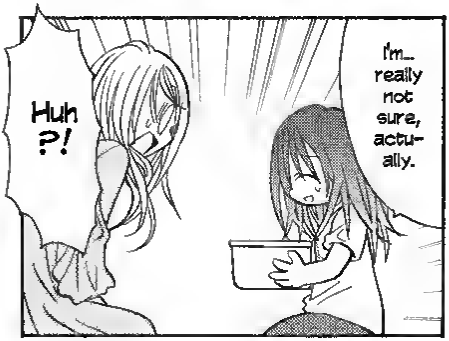

Mmm ...
Nako! There's a leak!


Could you tell me how you ended up with
that $200,000 debt?


Oh... that really takes me back.
It does?!

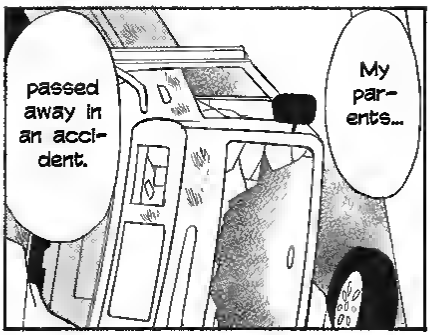

Oh! If you don't want to talk about it, you don't have to.
.....

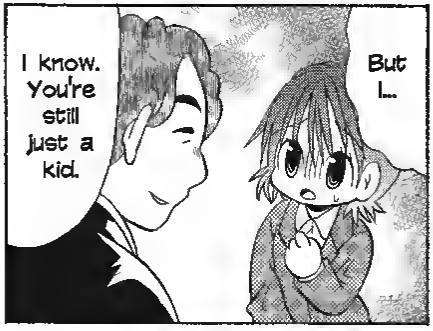

When I was little,
our roof leaked all the time.
DRIP
DRIP

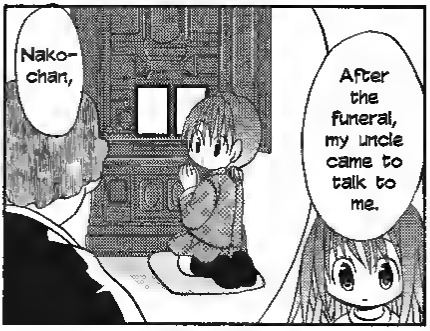

I'm... really not sure, actually.
Huh?!

I felt like a ninja on rainy days!!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
Why...?

The insurance will cover some of it,
but you've gotta pay the rest, since you're their kid.

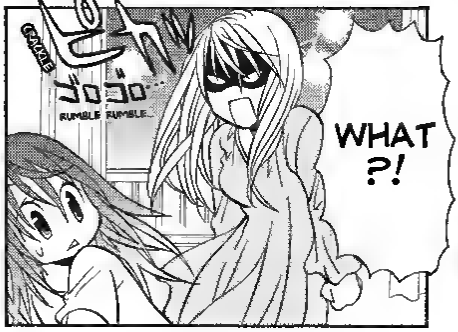

My parents...
passed away in an accident.

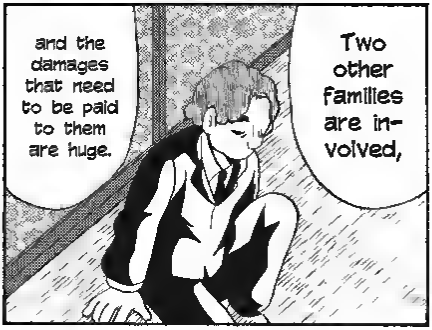

But I...
I know. You're still just a kid.


Nako-chan,
After the funeral, my uncle came to talk to me.

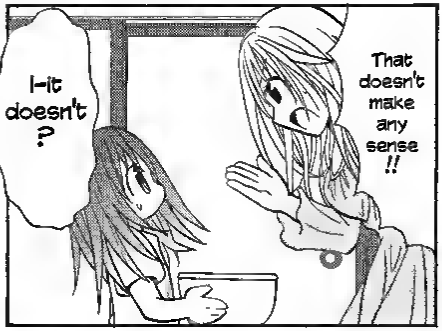
So I'll lend you the money.
You can pay me back little by little when you grow up!

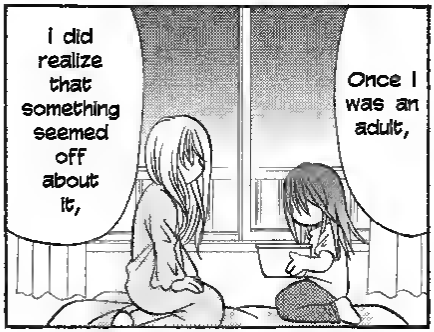
about the accident...
Nako's dad.
Seiichi was at fault.

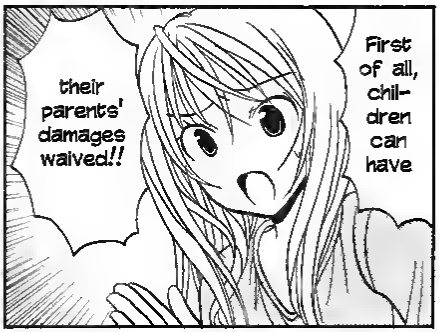

WHAT?!
GRRR
ゴロゴロ...
RUMBLE RUMBLE...

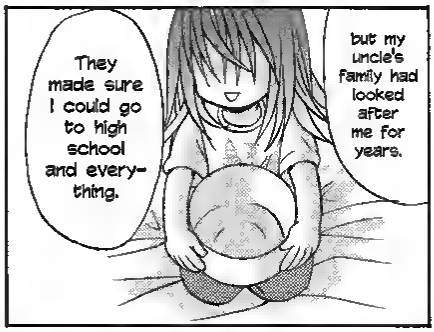

Two other families are involved,
and the damages that need to be paid to them are huge.

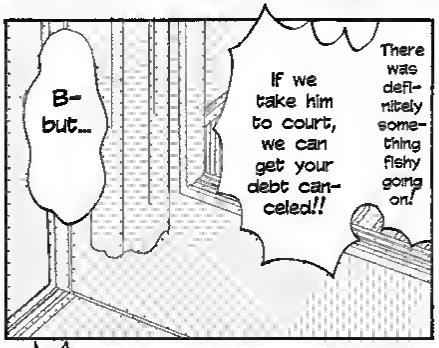
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BRING SHAME UPON SEIICHI'S NAME.
YOU SHOULD KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS.

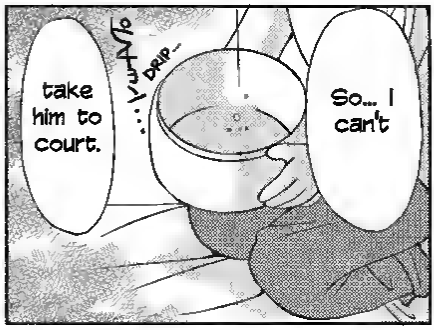

I-it doesn't ?
That doesn't make any sense !!

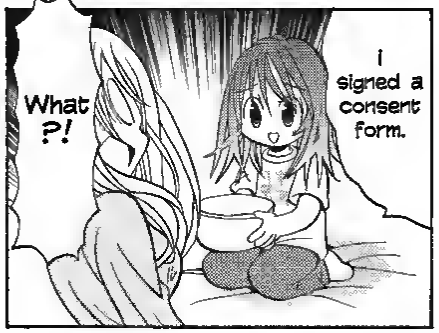

I did realize that something seemed off about it,
Once I was an adult,

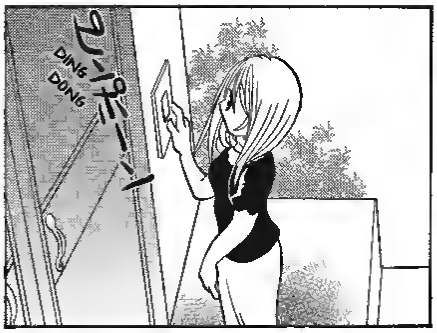

their parents' damages waived!!
First of all, children can have

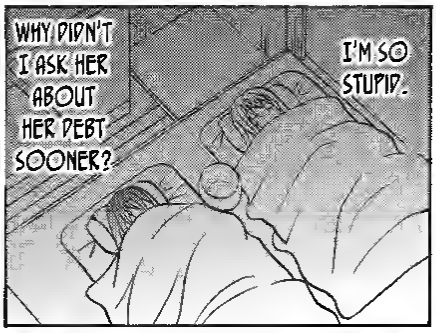

They made sure I could go to high school and everything.
but my uncle's family had looked after me for years.

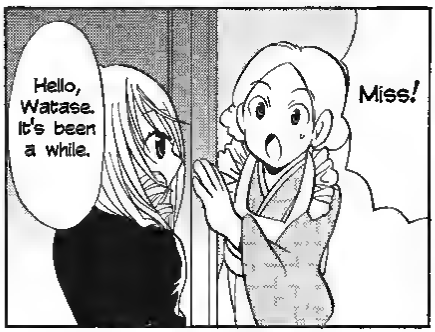

B-but...
If we take him to court, we can get your debt canceled!!
There was definitely something fishy going on!

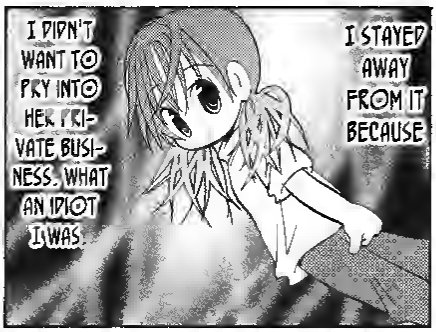

take him to court.
So... I can't
DRIP

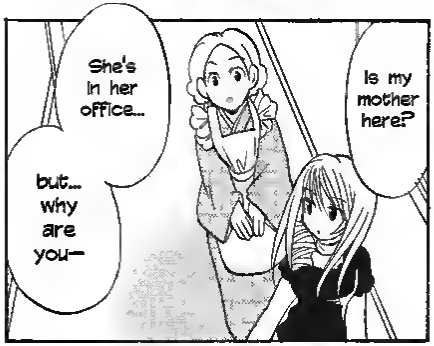

What ?!
I signed a consent form.

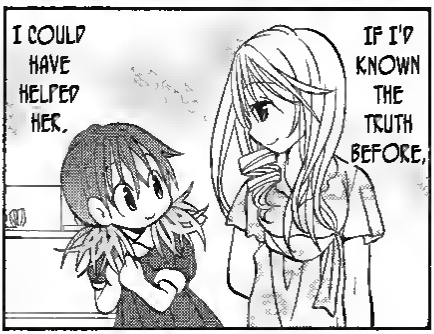

ピンポーン!
DING DONG

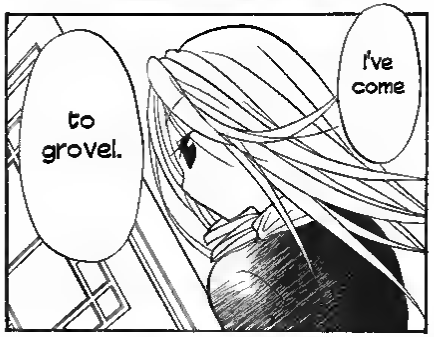

I'M SO STUPID.
WHY DIDN'T I ASK HER ABOUT HER DEBT SOONER?


Miss!
Hello, Watase. It's been a while.

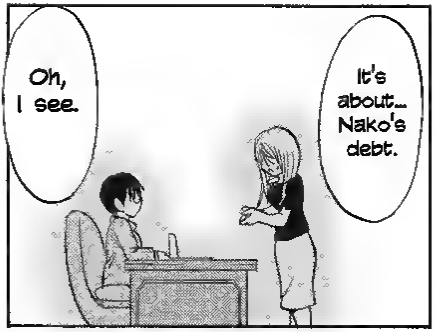

I STAYED AWAY FROM IT BECAUSE
I DIDN'T WANT TO PRY INTO HER PRIVATE BUSINESS. WHAT AN IDIOT I WAS.


Is my mother here?
She's in her office...
but... why are you—


IF I'D KNOWN THE TRUTH BEFORE,
I COULD HAVE HELPED HER.

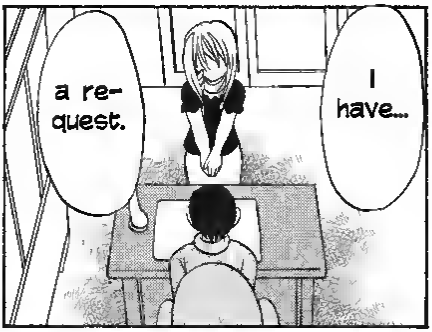

I've come
to grovel.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR HER NOW?
.....

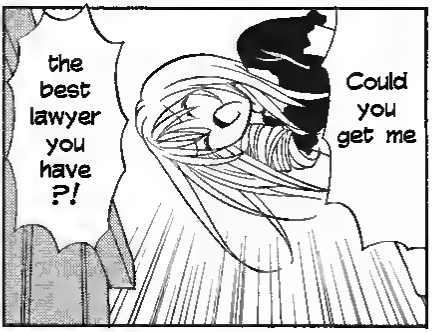

It's about... Nako's debt.
Oh, I see.

Oh! Ren!
Is something wrong?

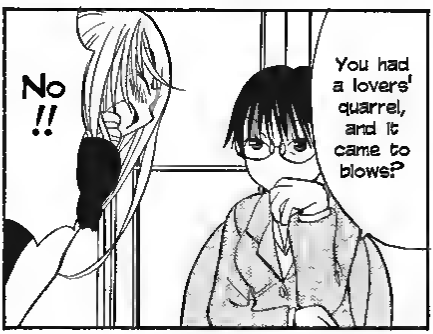
Very well.
You just leave it to me.
Thank you...


I have...
a request.

And once this is taken care of,
you'll be returning home, won't you?


Could you get me the best lawyer you have?!

.....
Yes.

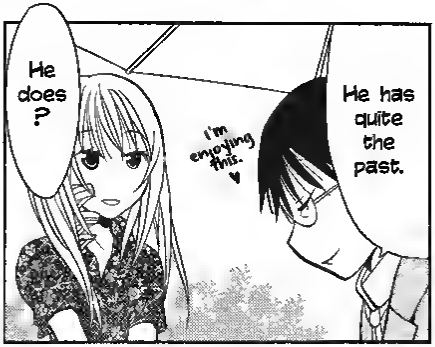

You had a lovers' quarrel, and it came to blows?
No !!

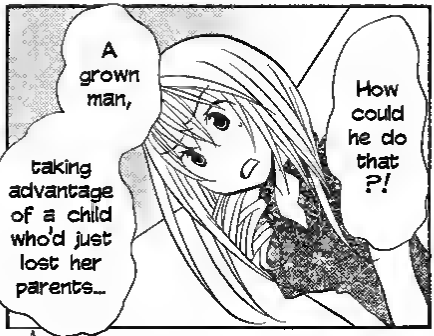
プアプア48
poor poor

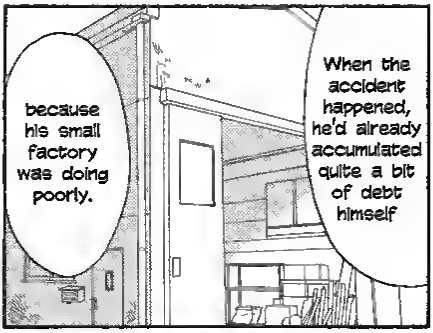
I used our network to its fullest. We're quite thorough.
フフフ…
HEH HEH HEH…

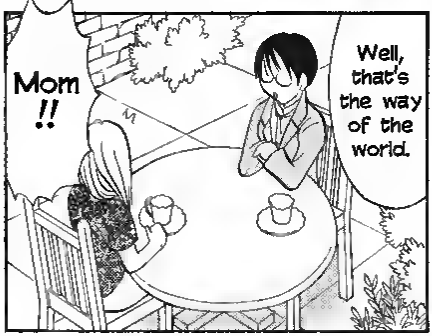
I've looked into the man who imposed that unfair debt on your mistress.

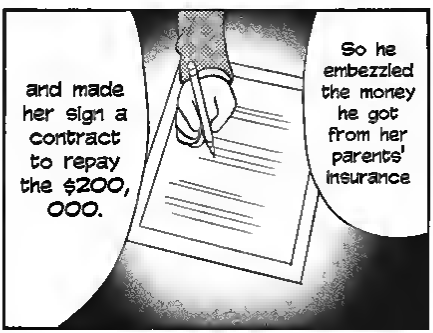
In high school, he won awards for his poetry, including fairy tale poems.
How embarrassing! ♥
You can leave out things like that.


He has quite the past.
I'm enjoying this. ♥
He does?

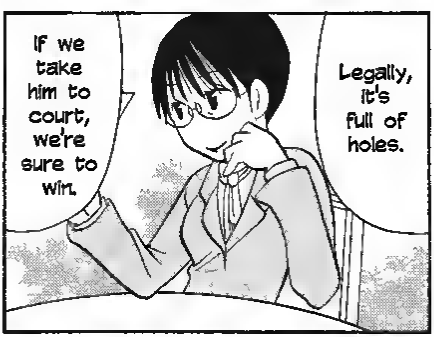

How could he do that?!
A grown man,
taking advantage of a child who'd just lost her parents...


When the accident happened, he'd already accumulated quite a bit of debt himself
because his small factory was doing poorly.

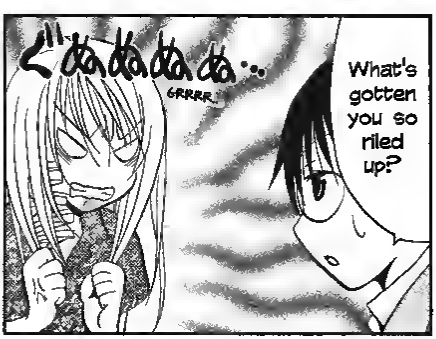

Mom!!
Well, that's the way of the world.


So he embezzled the money he got from her parents' insurance
and made her sign a contract to repay the $200,000.

Anywhere you go, the most powerless are always preyed upon.
ヨヨヨ…
TOTTER TOTTER...
Out on the savanna, young animals are the most frequent targets.

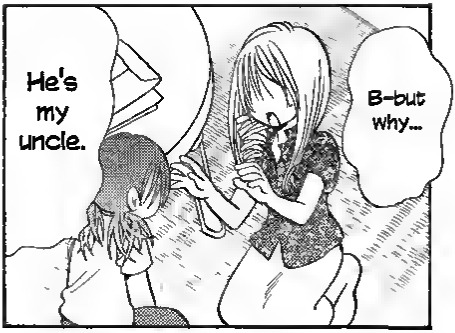

If we take him to court, we're sure to win.
Legally, it's full of holes.

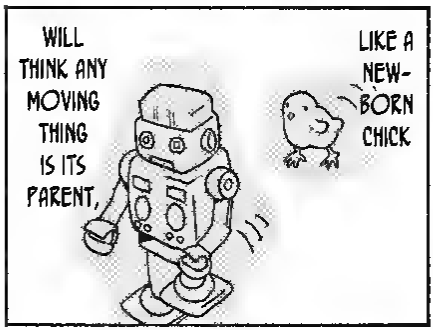
In order to protect oneself,
one must either build one's strength
or seek protection from someone stronger.

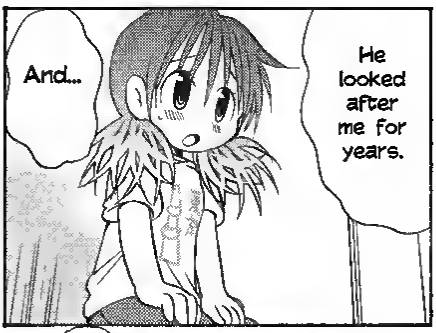

What's gotten you so riled up?
GRRRR

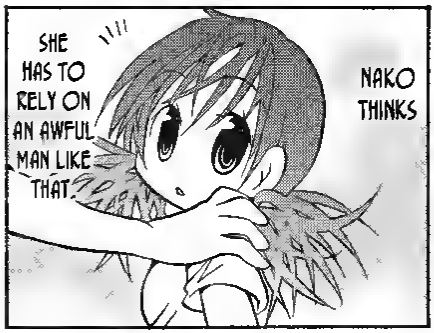
Um...
PUMP...
what's all that?
GURK!
You've relied on my power all your life.
A dossier on your uncle!!
There's plenty of incriminating stuff in there!!
FOO...
Once this is taken care of,
you'll be returning home
If you take him to court,
you can have your debt canceled!!
CLINK
and abiding by my guidance again, won't you?
I couldn't do that. He's family...
What?!
Don't worry.
I understand what's expected of me.

.....
IT'S
ALMOST LIKE IM-PRINTING.


B-but why...
He's my uncle.


LIKE A NEW-BORN CHICK
WILL THINK ANY MOVING THING IS ITS PARENT,

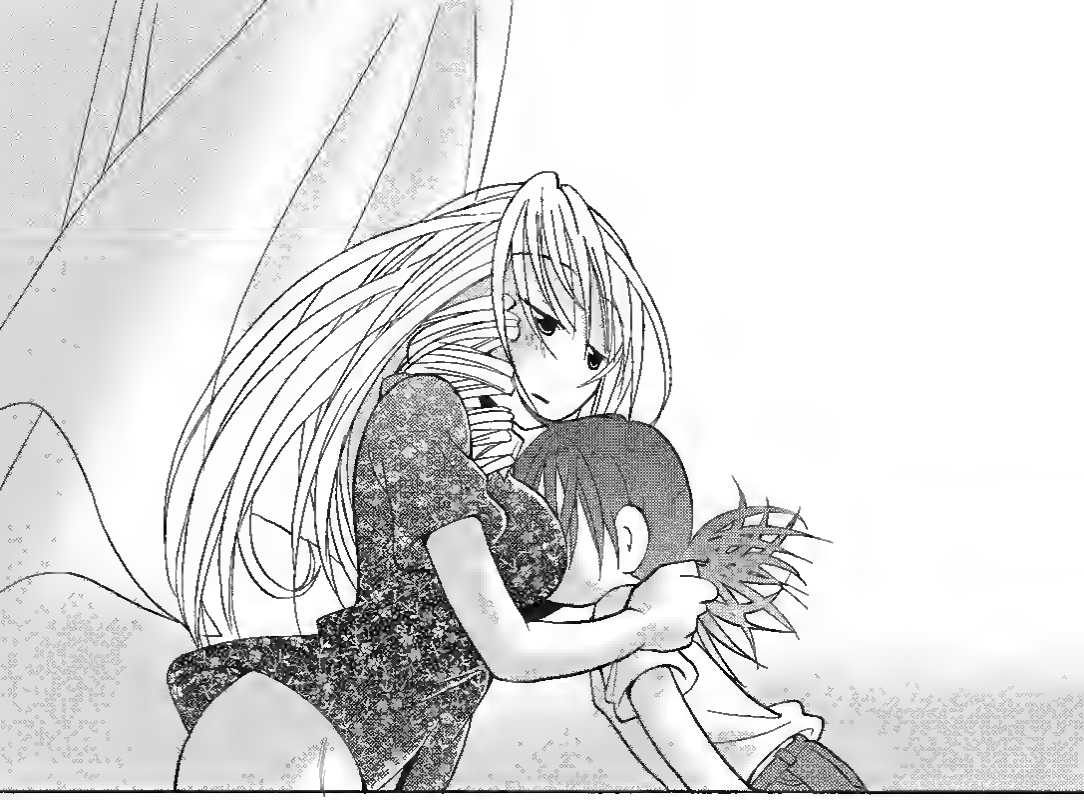

He looked after me for years.
And...

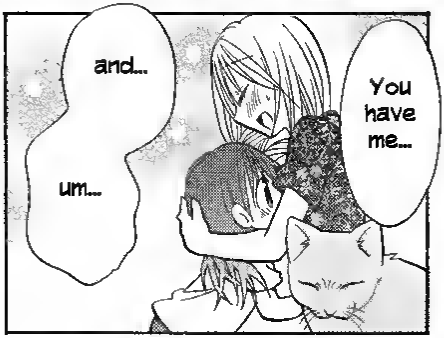

NAKO THINKS
SHE HAS TO RELY ON AN AWFUL MAN LIKE THAT.

IF I take him to court...
I'm sure he'll get mad and cut ties with me.

SHE MUST BE
Oh!
SO LONELY
TUG

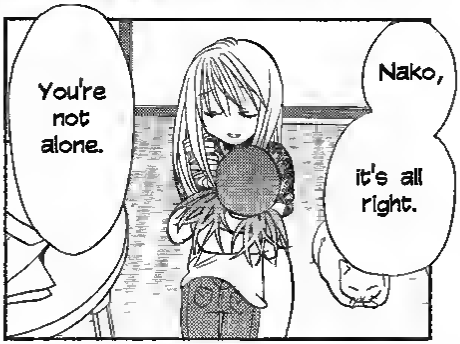
And then...
I'll really be all alone in the world.



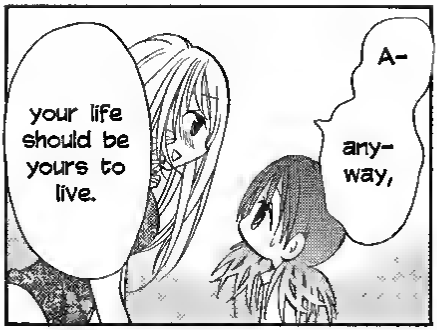

You have me...
and...
um...

R-Ren-san...

Blanche, too!
WHAT ABOUT ME?!


Nako, it's all right.
You're not alone.

AND SO...
Let's go
file this complaint at the court-house.


A-
any-way,
your life should be yours to live.

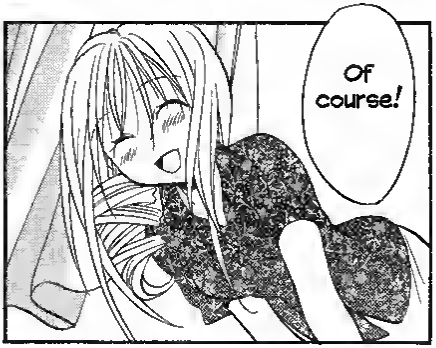
Um... should I wear a suit?
I don't think you need to dress up that much.

I...
want you to be free.

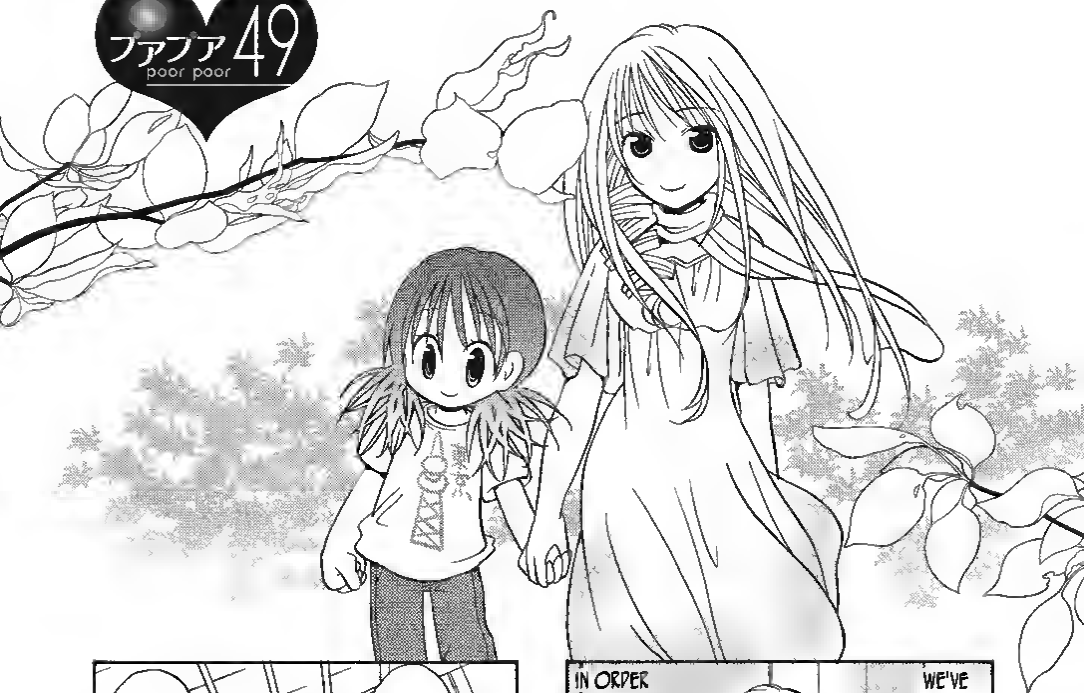
TA-DA

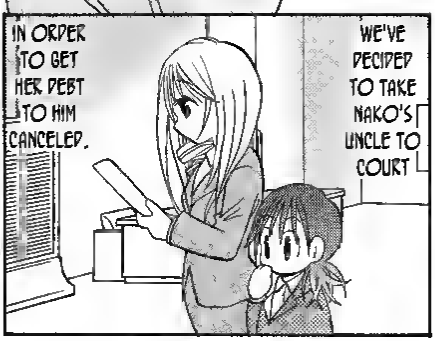
...I...
can be free?

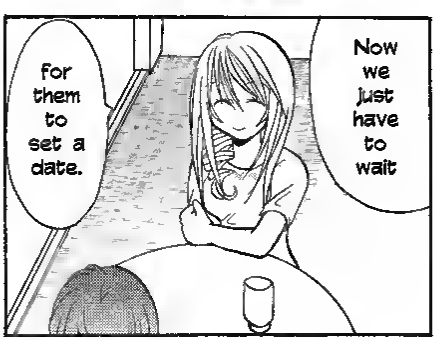
The closest I had was my old high school uniform.
BADUM BADUM...
I-I-I think that should be just fine!


Of course!

プアプア49
poor poor





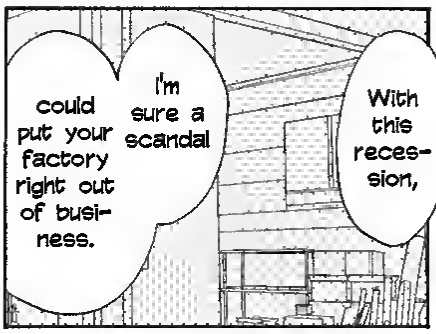


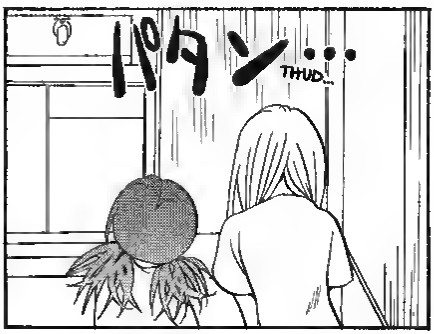
I'd say you're the one who has no shame.
U-Uncle!
What do you think you're doing, taking a member of your family to court?!
You make an innocent little girl take on your debts,
and you think she should be GRATEFUL to you?
She would've been better off with no guardian at all!
Have you no shame?!
I raised you, and this is the thanks I get?
And just who do you think you are?
I'm
Call your lawyer! Or the courthouse! I don't care which!
If you call it off now, I'll forgive you.
BLUNT
That's nothing to brag about!!
someone who's mooching off Nako!!
.....
Do it!
Now!!

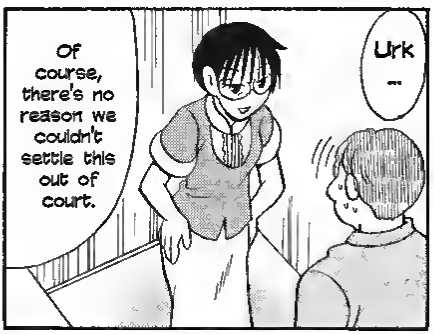
Heh. You talk big,
but you've got nothing to back it up with.
So you're the one who put this idea in her head!
This has nothing to do with you. Stay out of it!
This may not be any of my business,
but when I see someone being taken advantage of, I can't just turn a blind eye to it!
Nako,
hurry up
and—
That's enough out of you!
POW
Urk!
GRRR GRRR
What are you doing to Ren-san?!
SWING
Eep!

We've taken the liberty of
recording everything you just did here.
Cameraman.
You're no uncle of mine!
You're a miserable excuse for a human being!!
Don't hit him!!
JERK
If you hit him, you're no better than he is!
Wha--
My lawyer
told me that it's common for family members to come object in person in cases like these,
so I had their apartment watched.
And sure enough, here you are.
There are plenty of ways we can fight back
without resorting to violence.
That's right!
BANG
How fortunate that you turned out to be such a shallow, predictable man!
HOHOHOHOHO
.....

This was fun.
with our lawyers.
Well, we can go over the details of the settlement later,

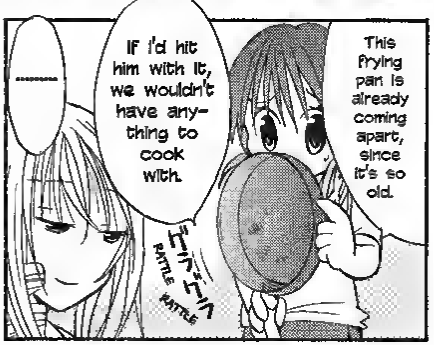

With this recession,
I'm sure a scandal could put your factory right out of business.

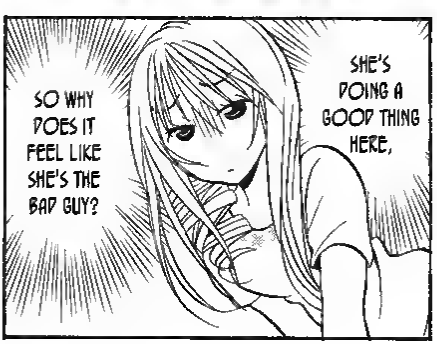

パタン…
THUD…

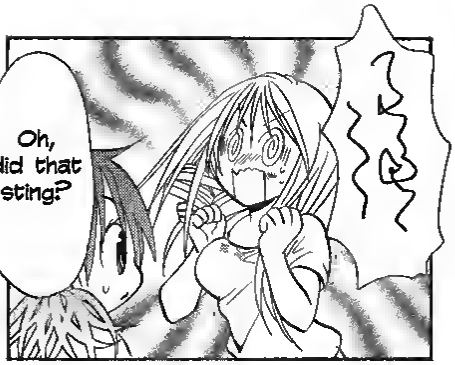

Urk…
Of course, there's no reason we couldn't settle this out of court.

Me, too.
PHEW…
I'm glad I didn't hit him.

All you have to do
is declare Okashi Nako's debt null and void.
HEH HEH…

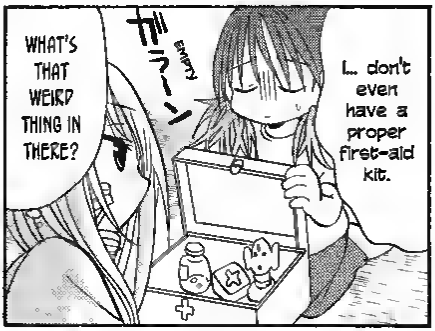

……
If I'd hit him with it, we wouldn't have anything to cook with.
This frying pan is already coming apart, since it's so old.
ガタガタ
RATTLE RATTLE

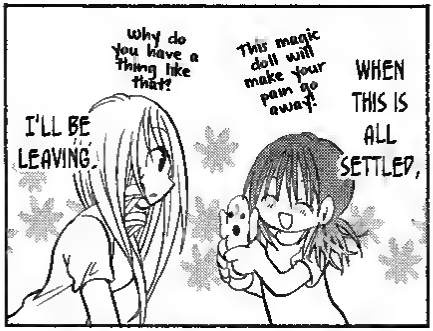

SHE'S DOING A GOOD THING HERE,
SO WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE SHE'S THE BAD GUY?

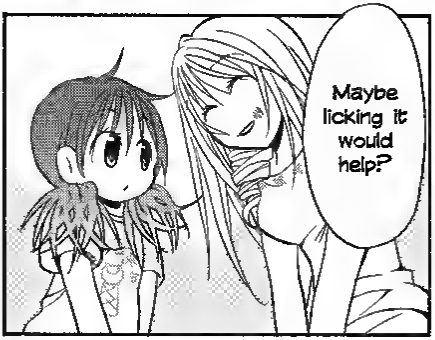

Oh, did that sting?

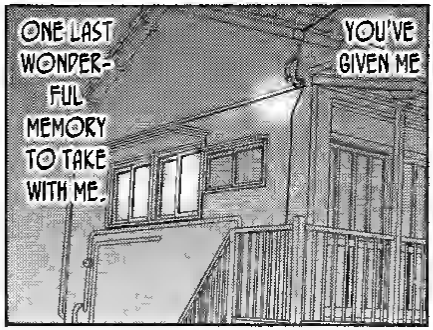
Ren-san...
I'm sorry.
STING

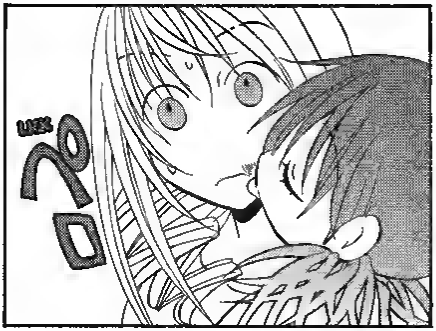
No...
THANK YOU, NAKO.


WHAT'S THAT WEIRD THING IN THERE?
I... don't even have a proper first-aid kit.

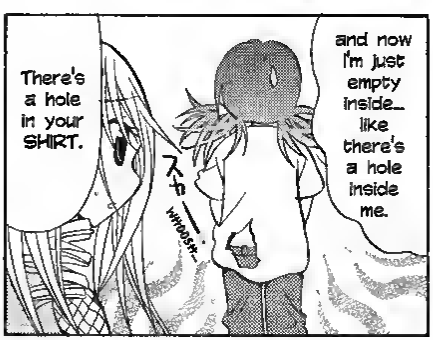

Why do you have a thing like that?
This magic doll will make your pain go away!
I'LL BE LEAVING.
WHEN THIS IS ALL SETTLED,

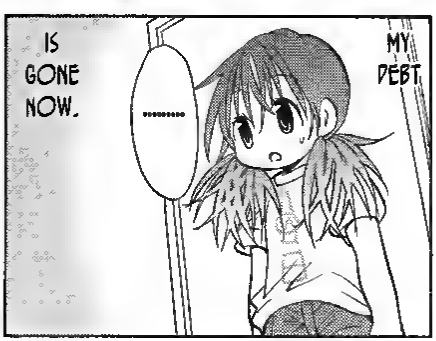

Maybe licking it would help?


ONE LAST WONDER-FUL MEMORY TO TAKE WITH ME.
YOU'VE GIVEN ME

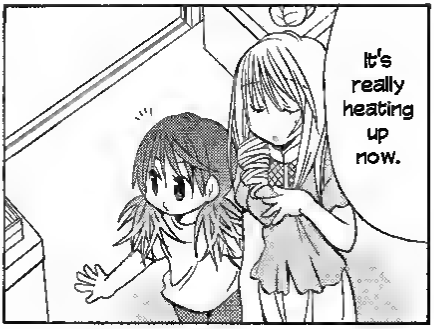

LICK

プアプア50
poor poor

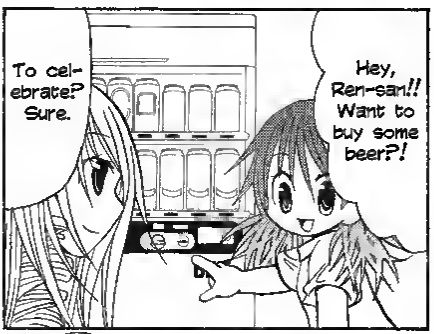


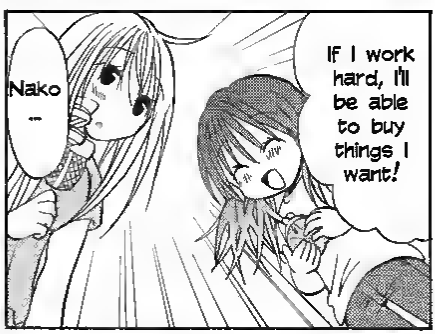


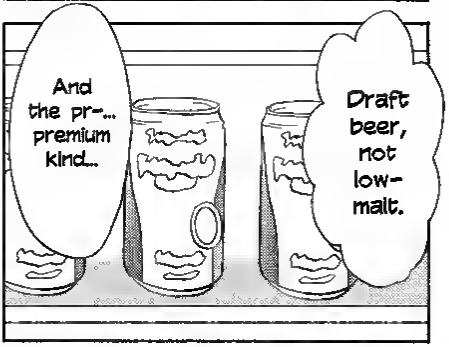
No matter how hard I worked before,
my money all just disap-peared.

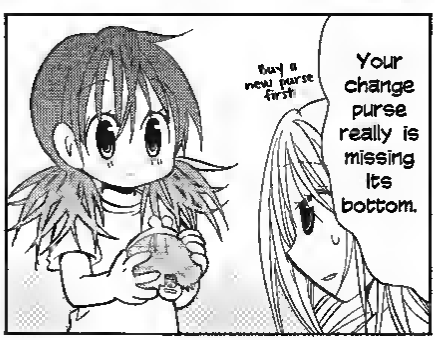

It's really heating up now.

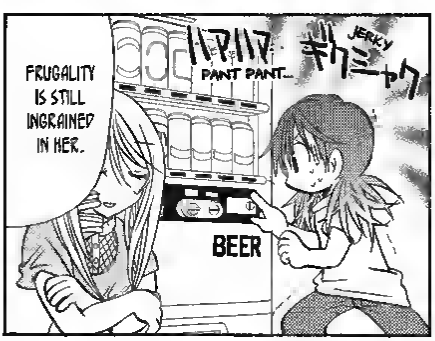
It was like put-ting it in a purse with no bottom.
Now I'll get to keep the money I work for.


Hey, Ren-san!! Want to buy some beer?!
To cel-ebrate? Sure.

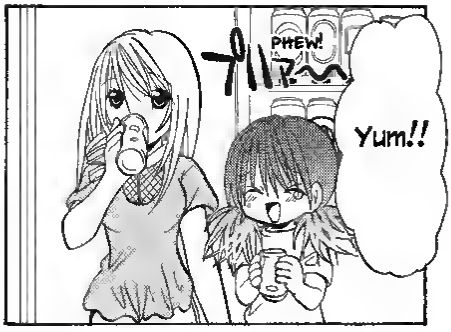

If I work hard, I'll be able to buy things I want!
Nako --


Draft beer, not low-malt.
And the pr-... premium kind...

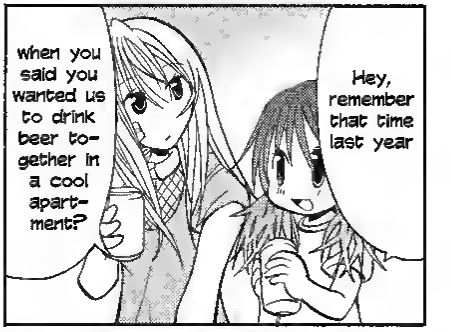

Your change purse really is missing its bottom.
Buy a new purse first


FRUGALITY IS STILL INGRAINED IN HER.
PANT PANT...
JERKY
BEER

What is it?
Ren-san?
I'm... going to work my butt off

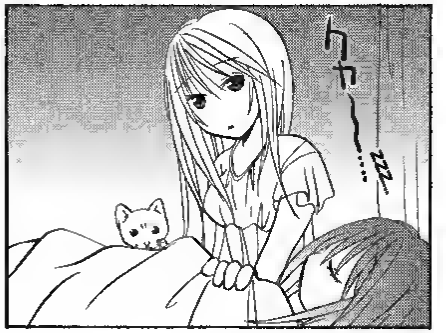

PHEW!
Yum!!

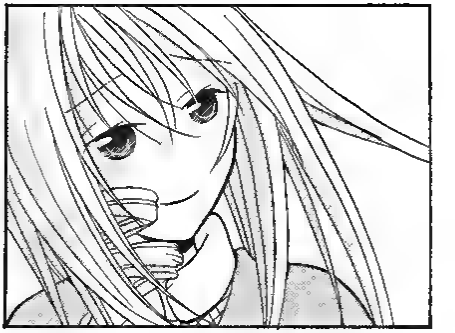
and get you all sorts of thank-you presents.
I'll buy you cake,

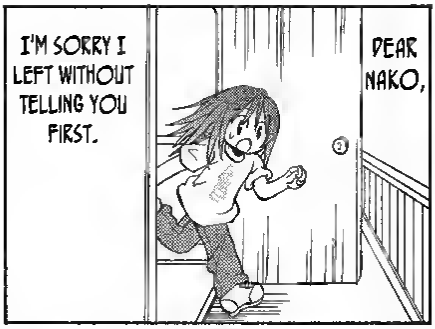

when you said you wanted us to drink beer together in a cool apartment?
Hey, remember that time last year

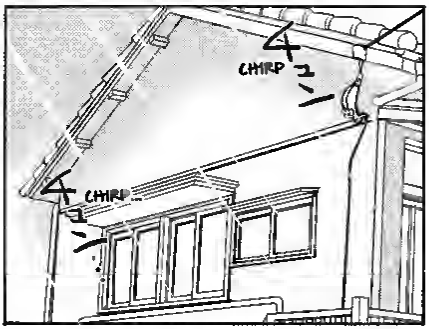
and we can have eel,
and grilled meat, and...
we need... an air conditioner...

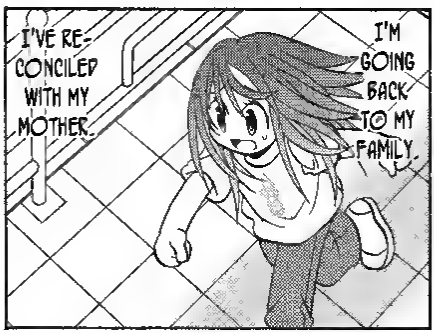
We made one of your wishes come true!!
This is the best beer I've ever had in my life.

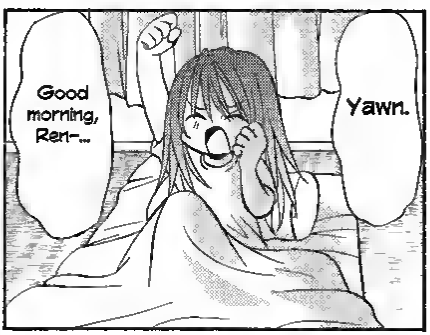

ZZZ...

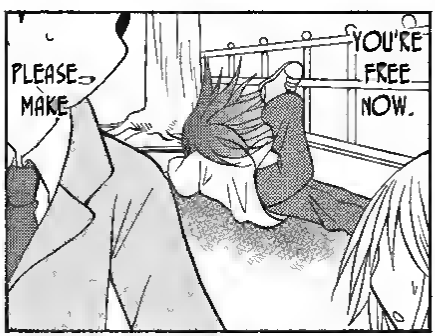


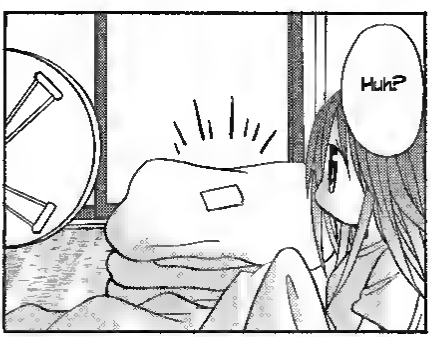

I'M SORRY I LEFT WITHOUT TELLING YOU FIRST.
DEAR NAKO,


CHIRP
CHIRP


I'VE RE-CONCILED WITH MY MOTHER.
I'M GOING BACK TO MY FAMILY.


Good morning, Ren-...
Yawn.

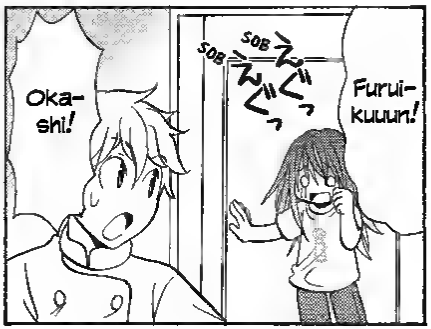

PLEASE MAKE
YOU'RE FREE NOW.


Huh?

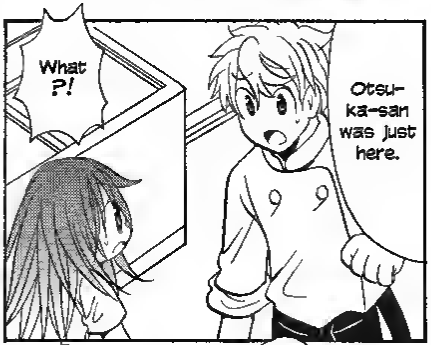
COME TRUE.
MANY OF YOUR DREAMS

DEAR NAKO

I tried !!
Why didn't you stop her?!

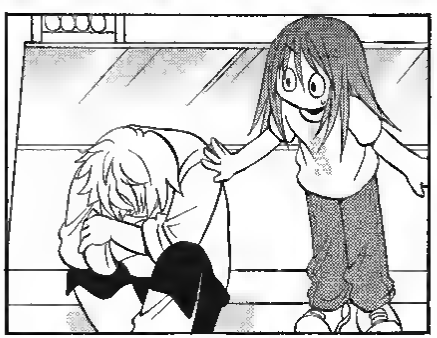

Oka-shi!
SOB
SOB
Furui-kuuun!

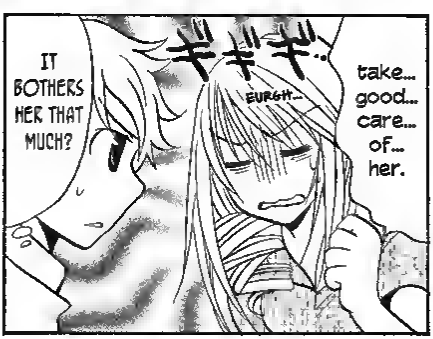
SIGH...
SLIDE...
.....

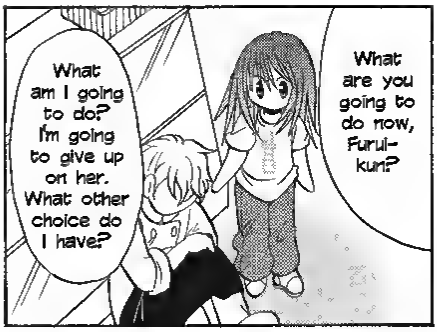

What ?!
Otsu-ka-san was just here.

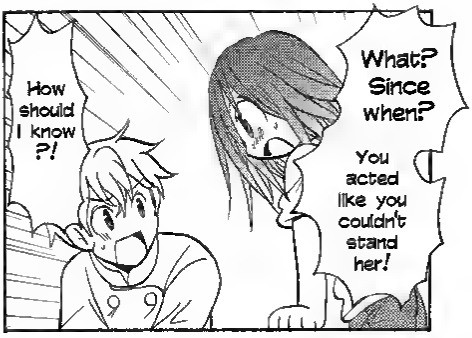
I... i have
a thing for her.

so please
Nako will still be working here,
She submit-ted her resigna-tion, and said...

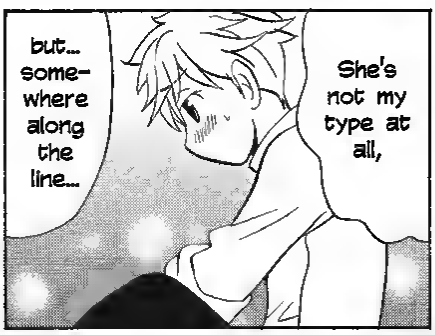


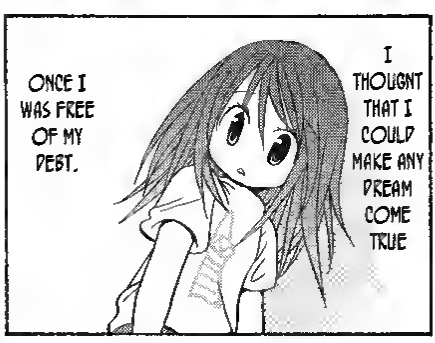

IT BOTHERS HER THAT MUCH?
EURGH...
take... good... care... of... her.


What are you going to do now, Furui-kun?
What am I going to do? I'm going to give up on her. What other choice do I have?


What? Since when?
You acted like you couldn't stand her!
How should I know?!

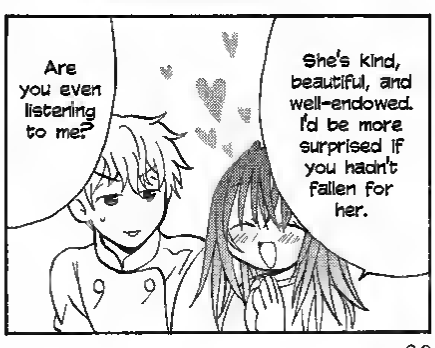
She quit her job here...
and she only likes women anyway.


She's not my type at all,
but... somewhere along the line...

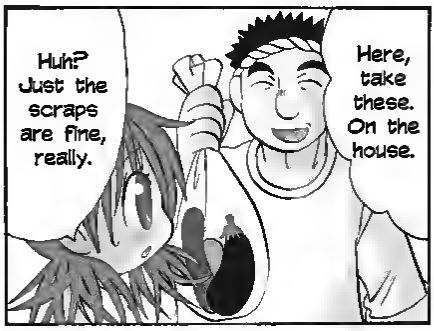

I THOUGHT THAT I COULD MAKE ANY DREAM COME TRUE
ONCE I WAS FREE OF MY DEBT.

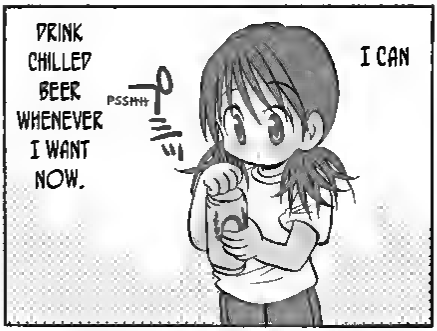
I STARTED TO APPRECIATE HOW EVEN THOUGH SHE CAME FROM MONEY,
SHE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT HER WORK...

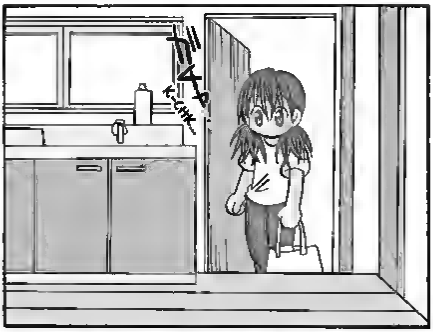
BUT NOW I KNOW
THAT ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD CAN'T MAKE SOME DREAMS COME TRUE


She's kind, beautiful, and well-endowed. I'd be more surprised if you hadn't fallen for her.
Are you even listening to me?

プアプア 51
poor poor



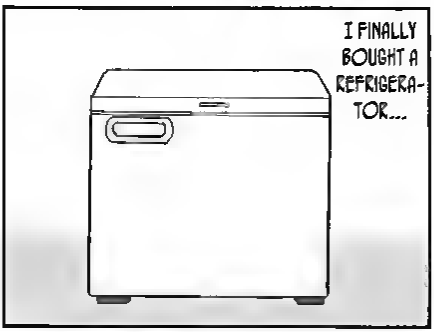

I CAN
DRINK CHILLED BEER WHENEVER I WANT NOW.
PSSHH!

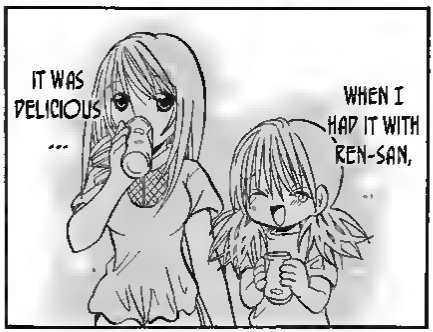

CLICK

GULP GULP

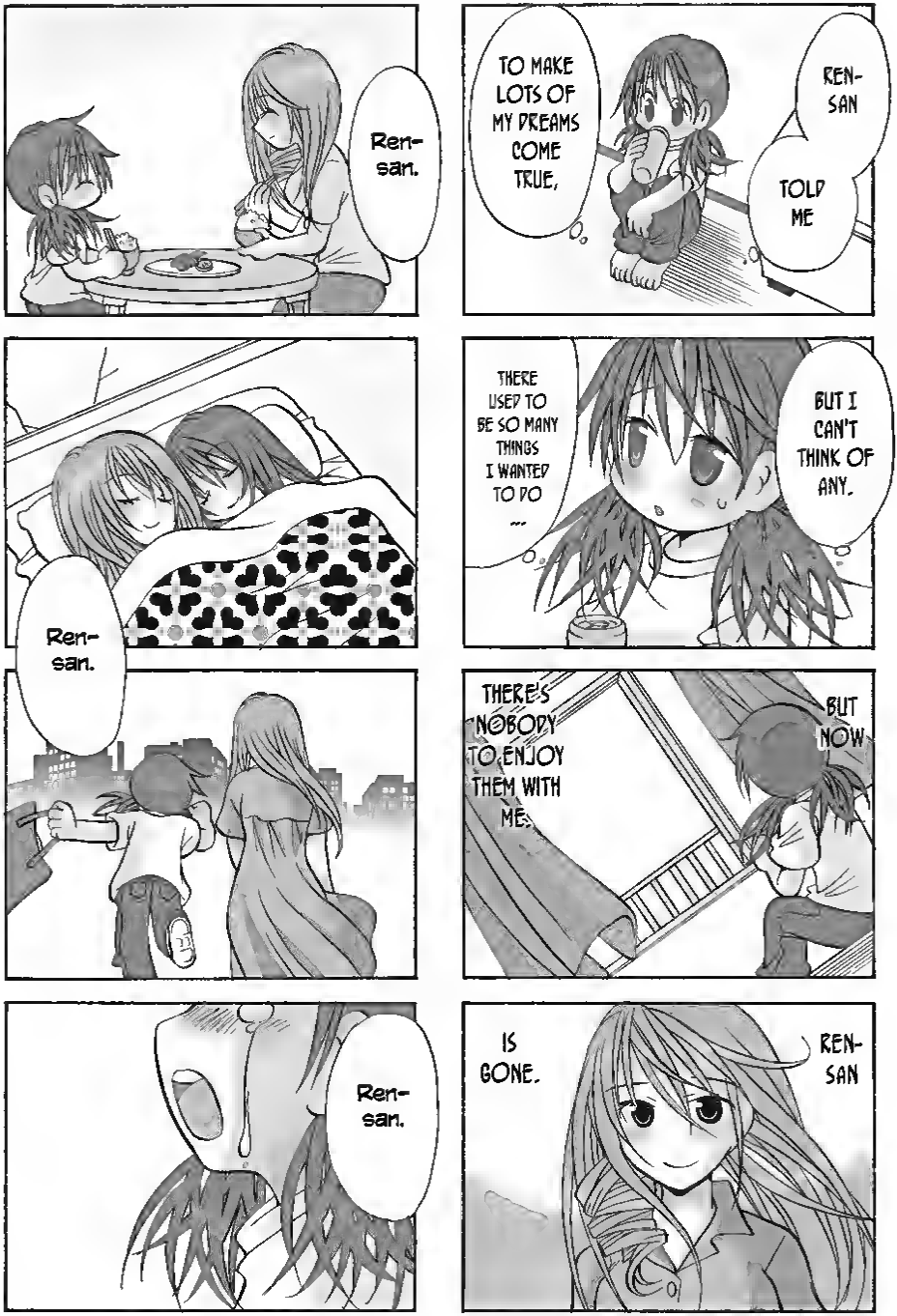
MY DEBT IS GONE,
SO I DON'T HAVE TO WATCH EVERY PENNY ANYMORE.

TASTE VERY GOOD?
WHY DOESN'T IT

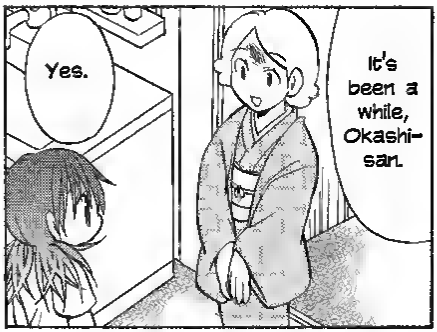

I FINALLY BOUGHT A REFRIGERA-TOR...

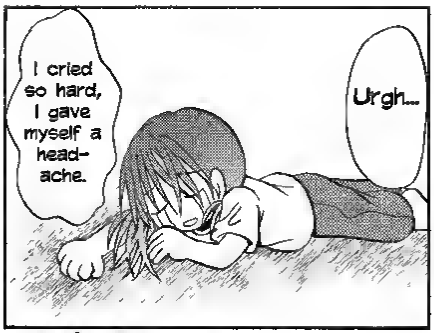

IT WAS DELICIOUS ...
WHEN I HAD IT WITH REN-SAN,

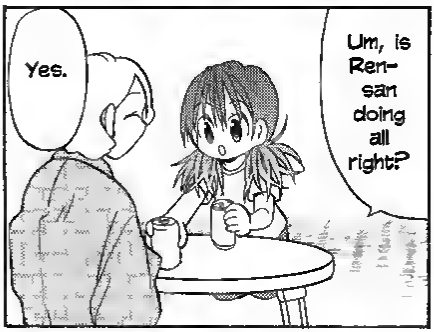
EMPTY...
Dishes.
I don't have much to put in it yet, though.


Ren-san.
TO MAKE LOTS OF MY DREAMS COME TRUE,
REN-SAN TOLD ME
THERE USED TO BE SO MANY THINGS I WANTED TO DO ...
BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANY.
Ren-san.
THERE'S NOBODY TO ENJOY THEM WITH ME.
BUT NOW
Ren-san.
IS GONE.
REN-SAN

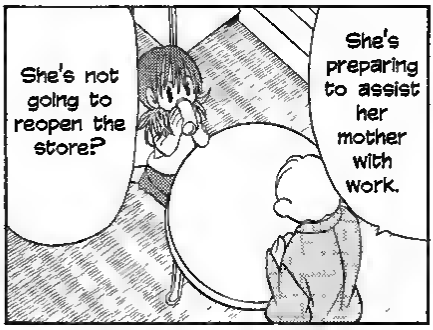
Ren-
san...
Ren-
san!
Ren-
san!!

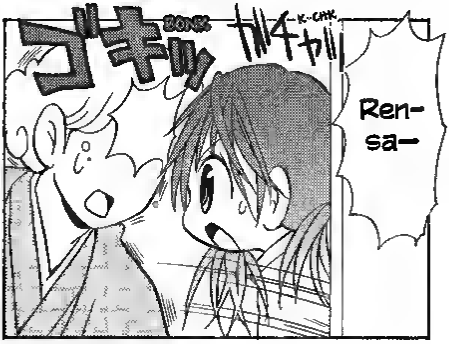

It's been a while, Okashi-san.
Yes.


Urgh...
I cried so hard, I gave myself a head-ache.


Um, is Ren-san doing all right?
Yes.

DRUM!
コンコン
KNOCK KNOCK

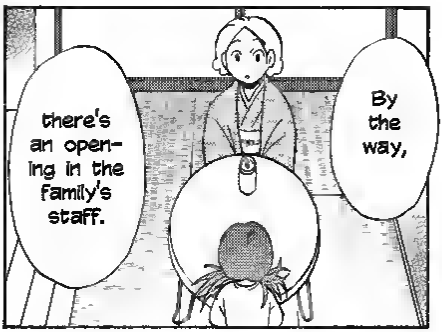

She's preparing to assist her mother with work.
She's not going to reopen the store?


Ren-sa-
K-CHK.
BONK

Would you trust power stones from a store that had gone out of business once?
G-good point.

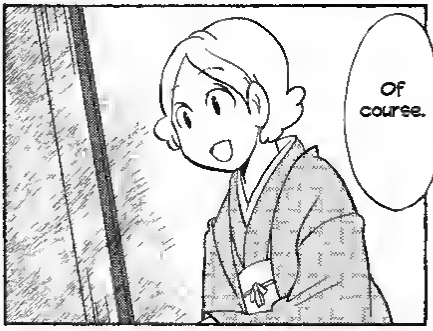
Owww.
Totally fine.
Wa-tase-san!!

Though I can't say for certain
that they'll agree to hire you.


By the way,
there's an opening in the family's staff.

If they do,
I'll... get to see Ren-san again?

They're looking for a new live-in maid.
The pay is quite reasonable,

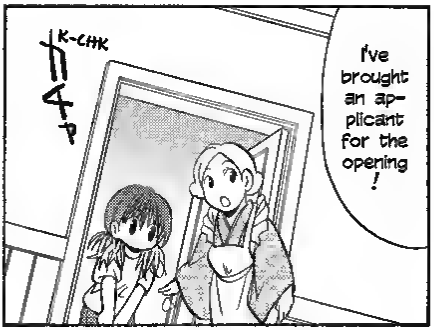

Of course.

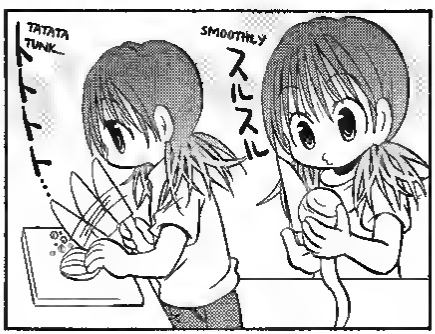
but the requirements are rather stringent—
there are no real days off,
and they're looking for someone with a high level of skill.

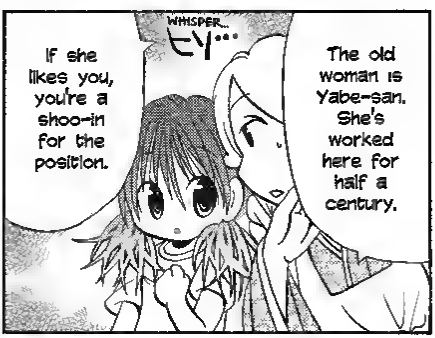
I'll do it!
I'll go work at Ren-san's house!!

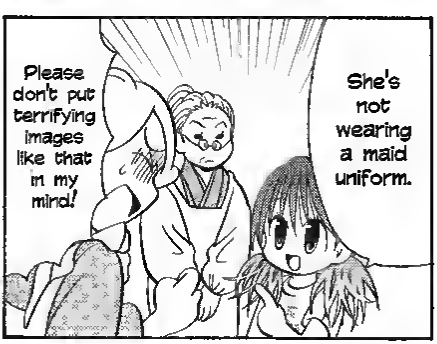
Would you like to try it, Okashi-san?

プアプア 52
poor poor

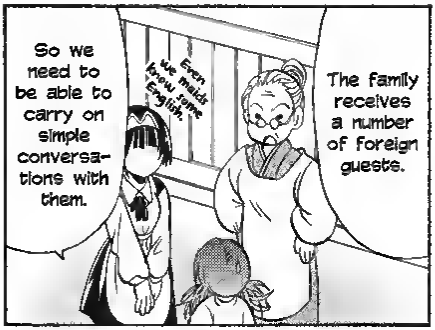


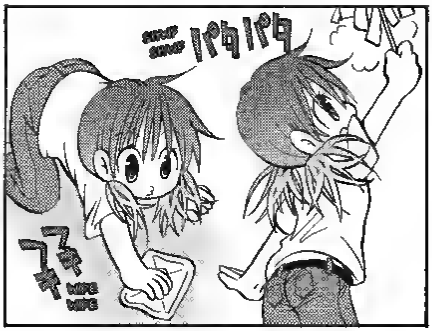


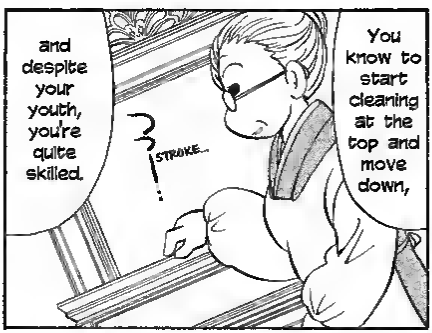


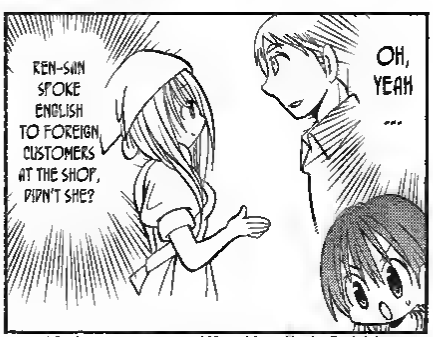


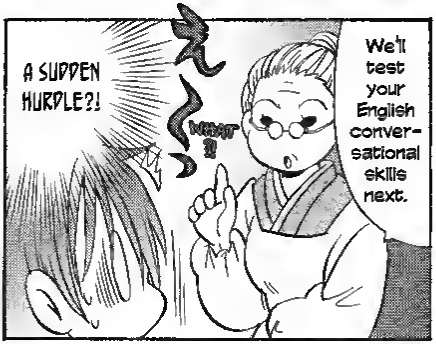
* This joke is based on the belief that people become stars after death


So we need to be able to carry on simple conversations with them.
We should know some English.
The family receives a number of foreign guests.

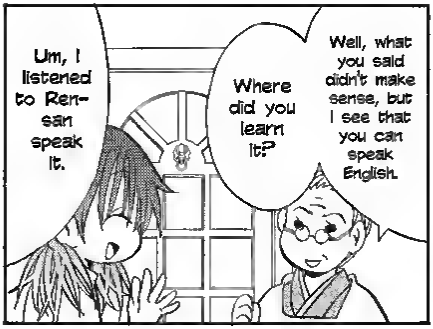


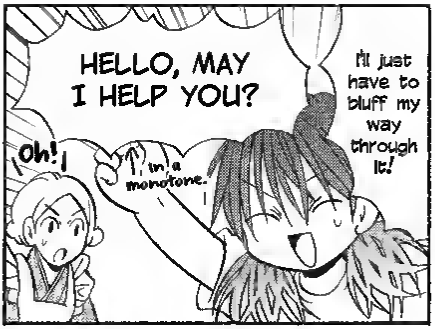


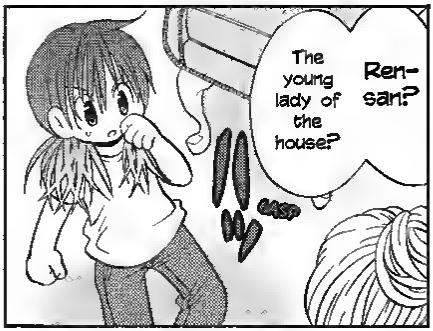




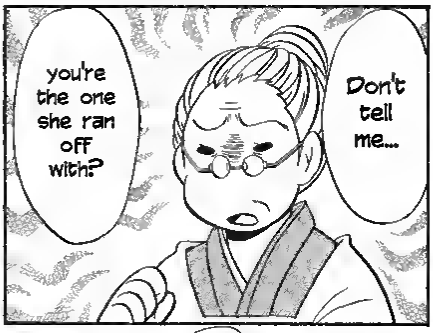
* Sue's name is pronounced "Soo-eh", not like the English language woman's name "Sue."

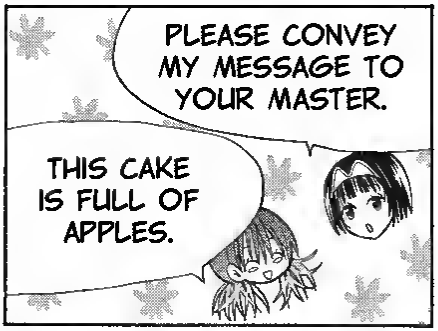

Um, I listened to Ren-san speak it.
Where did you learn it?
Well, what you said didn't make sense, but I see that you can speak English.


HELLO, MAY I HELP YOU?
Oh!
in a monotone.
I'll just have to bluff my way through it!

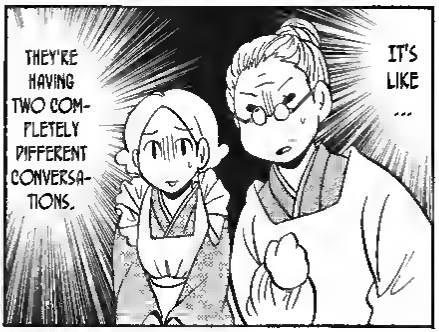

Ren-san?
The young lady of the house?
GASP

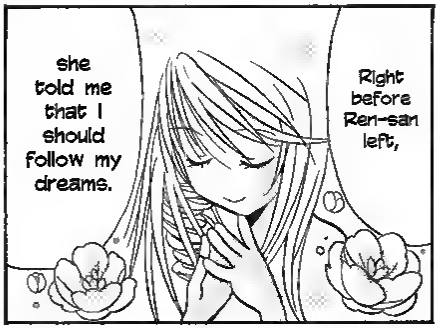
I'LL COME BACK ANOTHER DAY.
THIS CAKE IS TODAY'S SPECIAL.

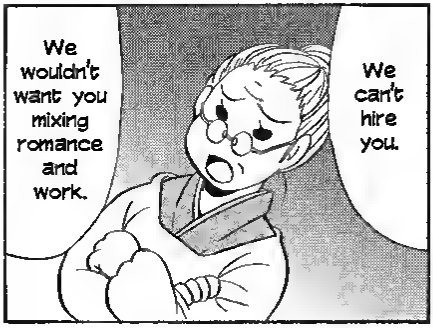

Don't tell me...
you're the one she ran off with?


PLEASE CONVEY MY MESSAGE TO YOUR MASTER.
THIS CAKE IS FULL OF APPLES.

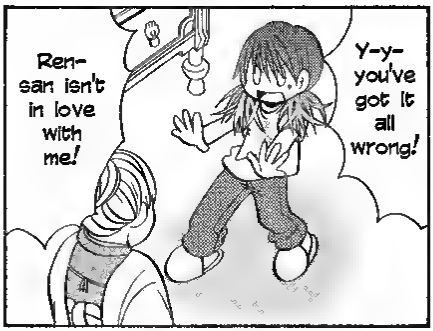
If she's a homosexual, that's her own business,
but pursuing a relationship with a child is a sin.
I'm an adult! I'm 22 years old!!


THEY'RE HAVING TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CONVERSATIONS.
IT'S LIKE ...

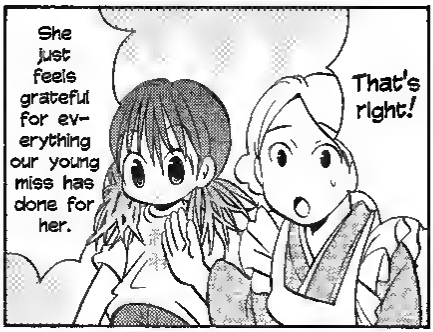

she told me that I should follow my dreams.
Right before Ren-san left,

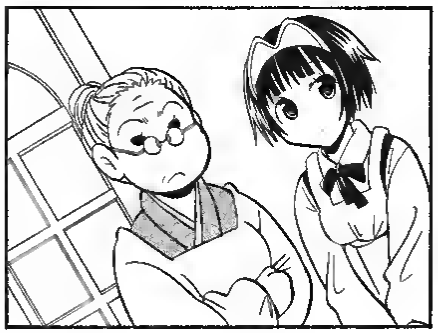

We can't hire you.
We wouldn't want you mixing romance and work.

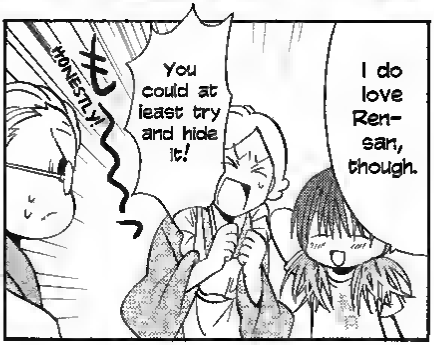
And I...
want to do something to help her.


Y-y-you've got it all wrong!
Ren-san isn't in love with me!

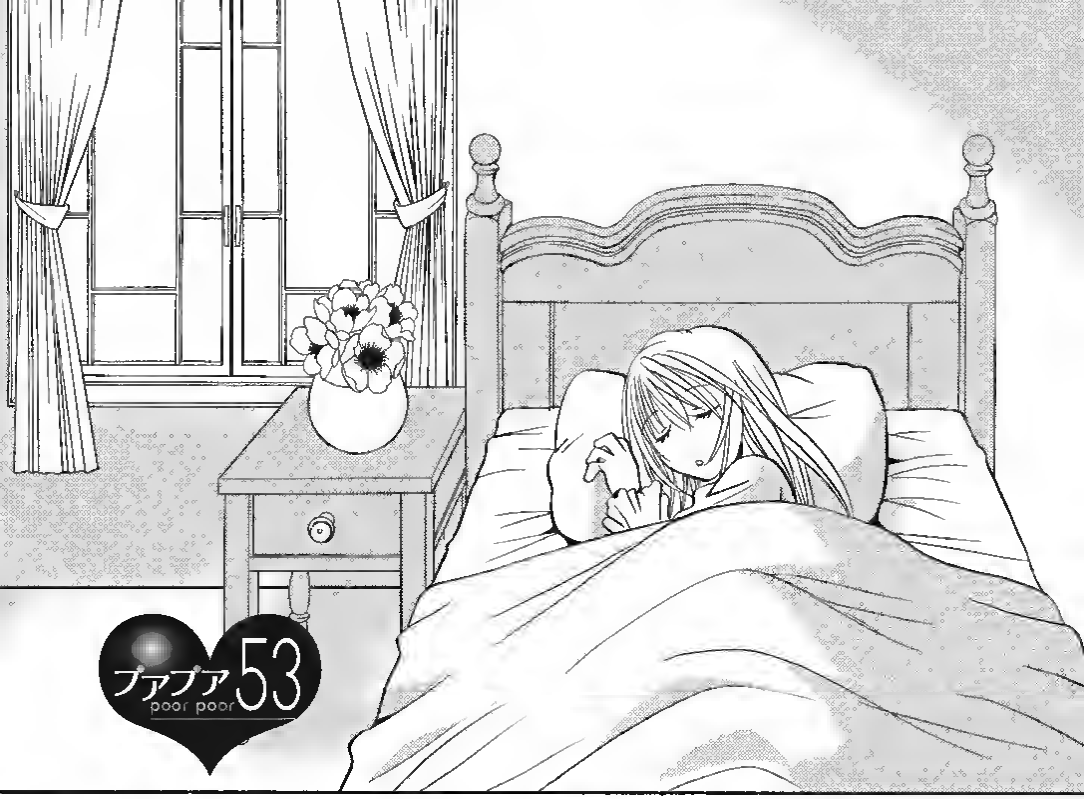
That's my dream right now!


That's right!
She just feels grateful for everything our young miss has done for her.

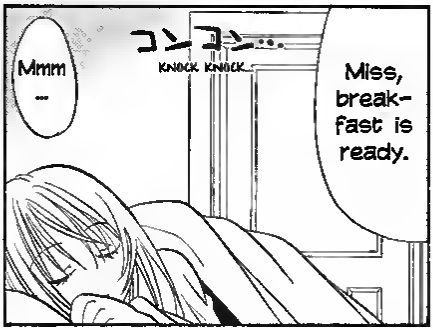


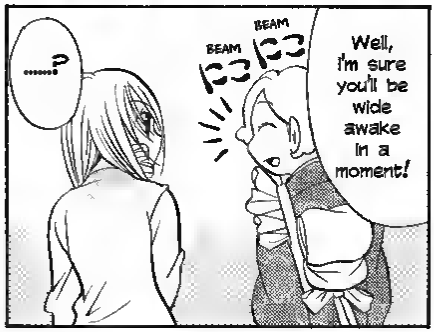

I do love Ren-san, though.
You could at least try and hide it!
HONESTLY!

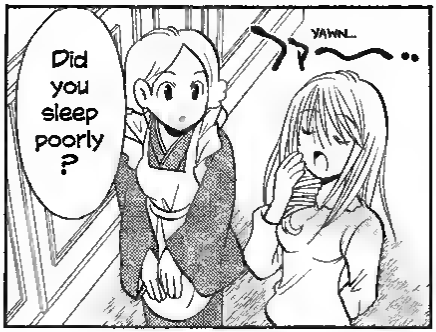
Just so you're aware,
working here is no guarantee that you'll get to see much of her.
Yes, ma'am.
And you won't be allowed to speak with her more than the bare minimum.
Yes, ma'am.
Are you prepared to serve her without receiving anything from her in return?
Yes, ma'am!
For minor things, ask Sue.
I look forward to working with you.
Sue, fetch me a uniform, would you?
Same here!!
It looks cute on you!
You have a lot to learn.


プアプア53
poor poor

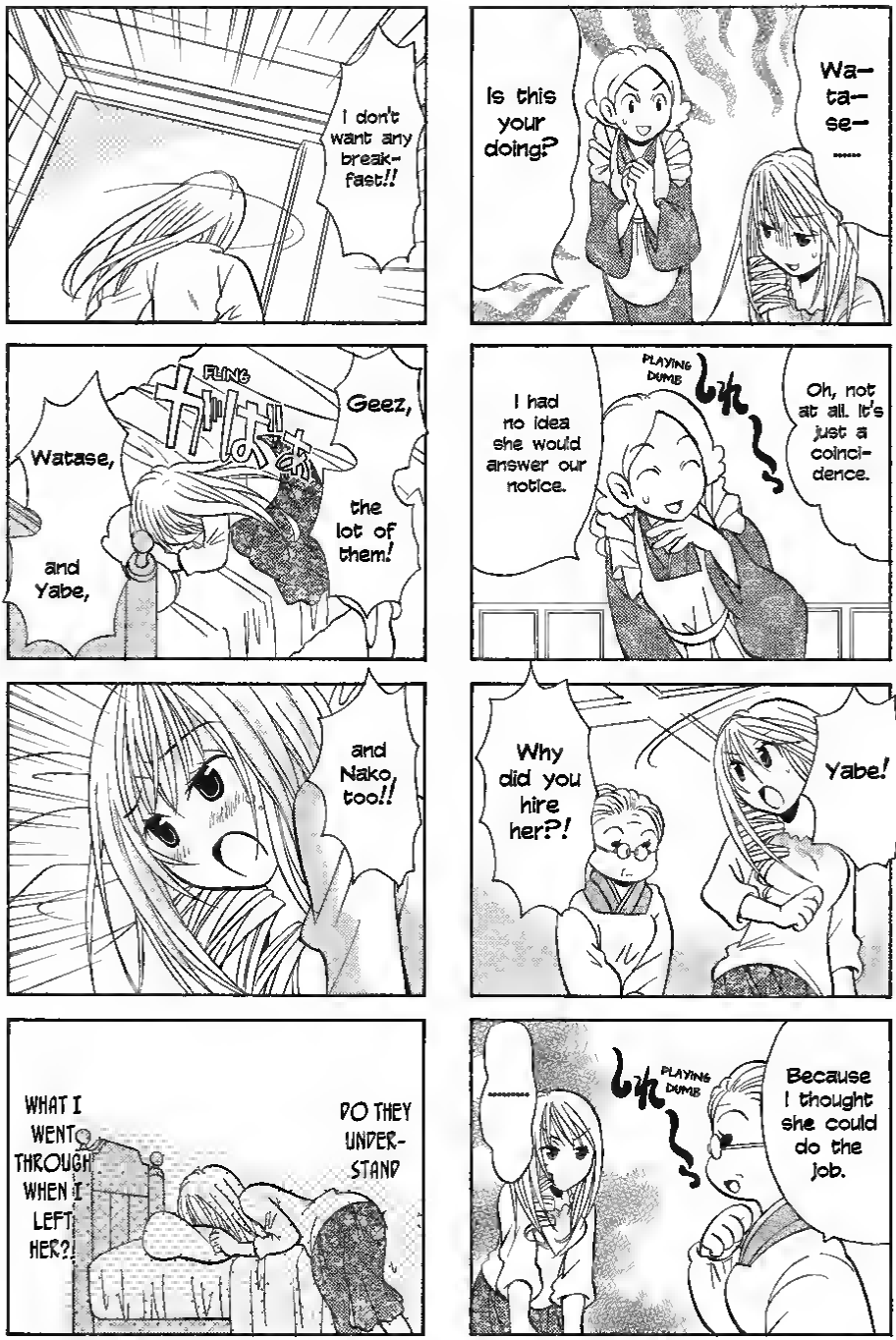
There are so many new things for me to learn.
I'm too anxious to sleep very well.

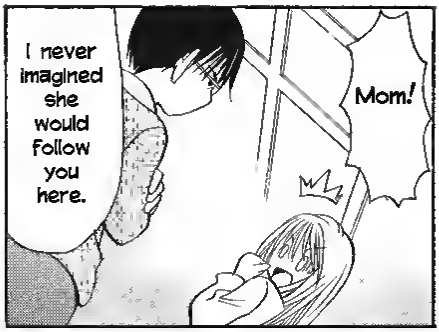

Miss, breakfast is ready.
コンコン…
KNOCK KNOCK
Mmm --


Well, I'm sure you'll be wide awake in a moment!
BEAM
BEAM
……?

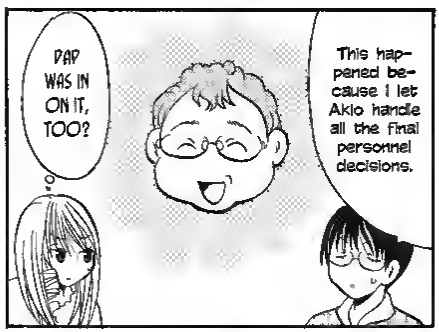

Did you sleep poorly?
YAWN…

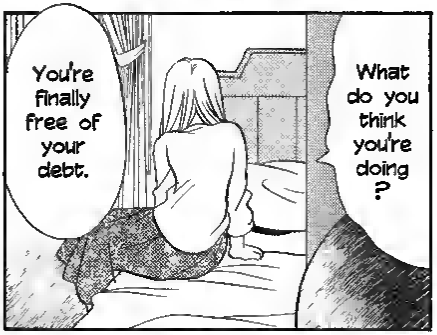
Miss !!
CRASH
Morning.
Na-
Na-
Good morning.
Good morning, Miss.
Oh,
Nako, what are you doing here?!
Good morning.
sigh...
as a servant!!
I've been hired to work here

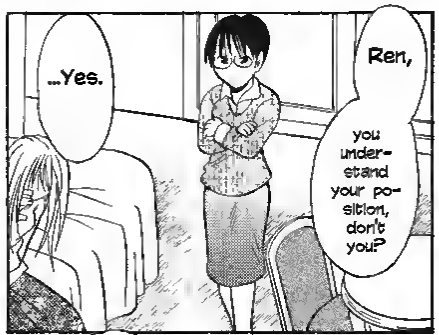

I don't want any breakfast!!
Is this your doing?
Wa-ta-se-.....
FLING
Watase,
and Yabe,
Geez, the lot of them!
I had no idea she would answer our notice.
PLAYING DUMB
Oh, not at all. It's just a coincidence.
and Nako, too!!
Why did you hire her?!
Yabe!
WHAT I WENT THROUGH WHEN I LEFT HER?!
DO THEY UNDERSTAND
.....
PLAYING DUMB
Because I thought she could do the job.


I never imagined she would follow you here.
Mom!

NAKO ?!
!!

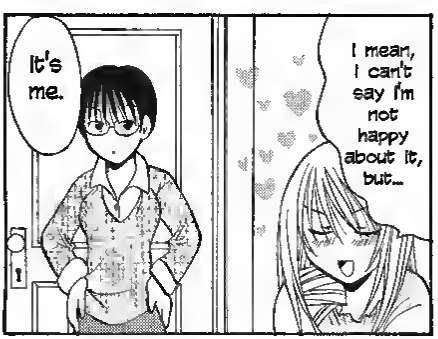

DAD WAS IN ON IT, TOO?
This happened because I let Akio handle all the final personnel decisions.


You're finally free of your debt.
What do you think you're doing ?


...Yes.
Ren, you understand your position, don't you?

You shouldn't be here working for us.
You don't owe me anything.

marry ...
whoever you end up choosing for me.
I'll...

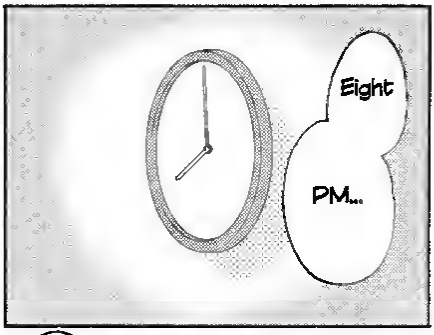

It's me.
I mean, I can't say I'm not happy about it, but...

I've brought your breakfast.
Um, Re-
I mean, Miss,
ENDED THINGS WITH HER.
YES...
I'VE ALREADY
You need to eat so you'll have energy to face the day.
I told you I didn't want any.
I HAVE TO STAMP OUT MY FEELINGS FOR HER!
SLUMP...
GASP!
See?
so I don't have any energy.
PANT... PANT...
I haven't had breakfast yet myself_
URK. URK. URK. URK!

MUNCH MUNCH
もぐもぐ
MUNCH MUNCH
もぐもぐ
Huh?!
Come on in.
.....
O-oh, I couldn't !!
Have a bite to eat, and then be on your way.
I HAVE TO KEEP MY FEELINGS IN CHECK!
GASP
OH, NO!
Okay... Just a bite...
Eat up.
It's less trouble than having you faint on me.
JUST A SER-VANT, THE SAME AS ANY OTHER...
SHE'S MY SER-VANT!!
You can eat it all. It's all right.
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
モグモグモグ
Oh, no. I can't stop... What should I do?

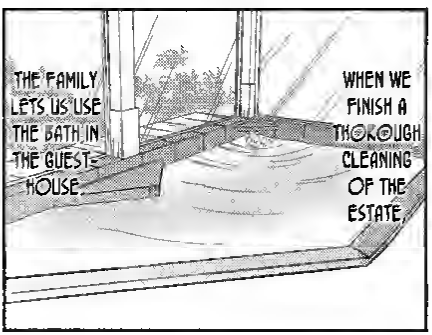
ファファ poor poor 54

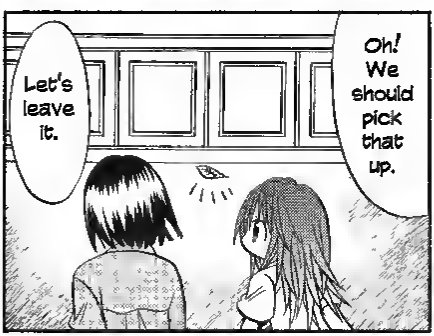
WITH NEW YEAR'S COMING UP,
THERE'S A LOT OF WORK TO DO AROUND THE HOUSE.
Phew! With such a big house,
there's a ton of cleaning to do!
The auto-matic vacuum !!
I'd never seen one before !!
There's fun stuff too, though.
Really? Like what?
You're PLAY-ING with it?
SQUEAL SQUEAL


Eight
PM...

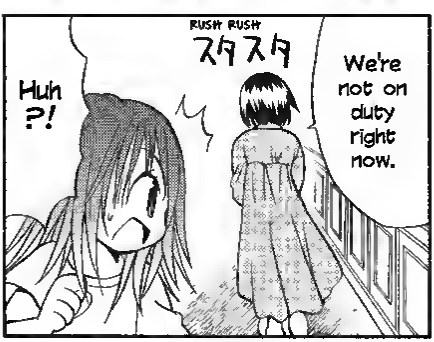
Huh?
There are other fun things we get to do, too.

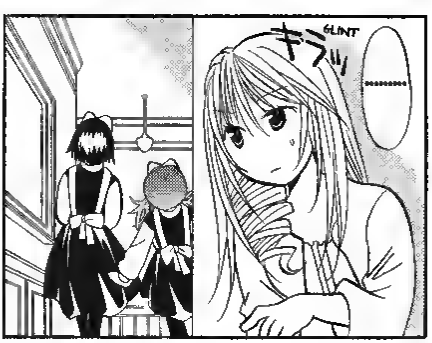
Want to go take a bath?
We're off duty now.


THE FAMILY LETS US USE THE BATH IN THE GUEST HOUSE.
WHEN WE FINISH A THOROUGH CLEANING OF THE ESTATE.

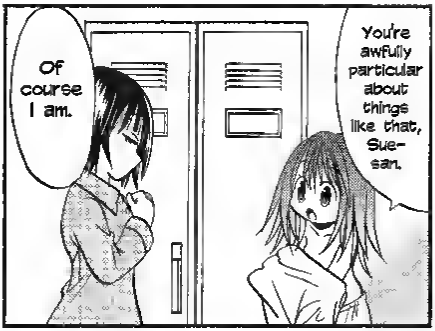

Let's leave it.
Oh! We should pick that up.

Ooh, I can't wait to try it out!
It's bigger than the staff bath, and nicer, too.


RUSH RUSH
スタスタ
Huh ?!
We're not on duty right now.

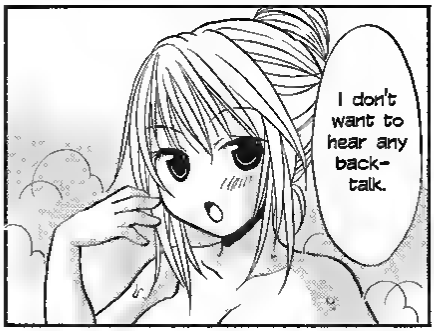

GLINT
キラ!!
.....

What are you doing here, R-Miss?
I'm free to use whichever bath I please, aren't I?

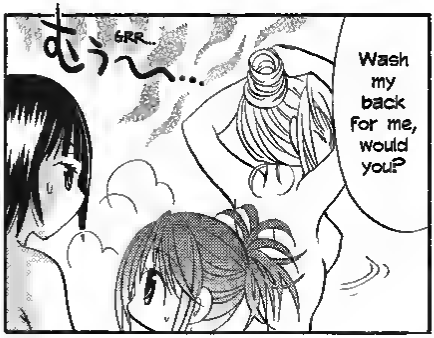

You're awfully particular about things like that, Sue-san.
Of course I am.

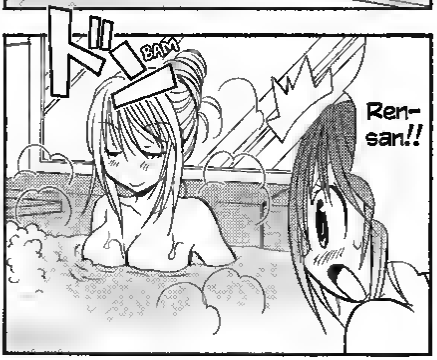
I have to disagree.
This bath is supposed to be open to the servants right now.

We're servants, not slaves.
We have to guard what little freedom we have.

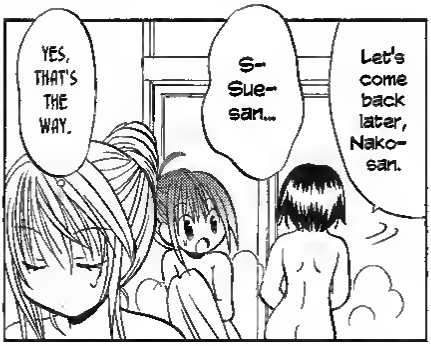

I don't want to hear any back-talk.

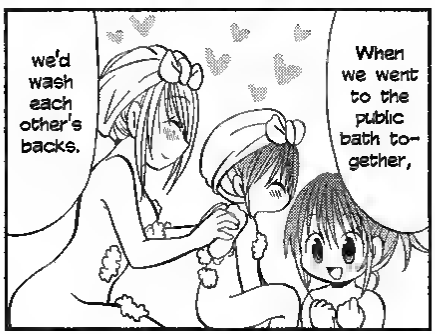
Wow, it's huge! And so pretty!
Mm-hmm.

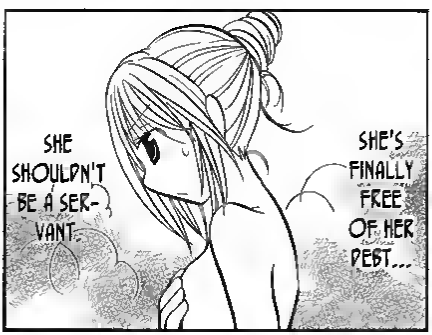

Wash my back for me, would you?
GRR...
むぅ～～...


Ren-san!!
BAM
ドン

I don't mind washing her back. It's no big deal.
What are you doing, Nako-san?

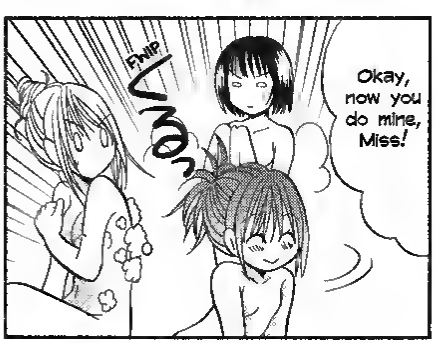

YES, THAT'S THE WAY.
S-Sue-san...
Let's come back later, Nako-san.

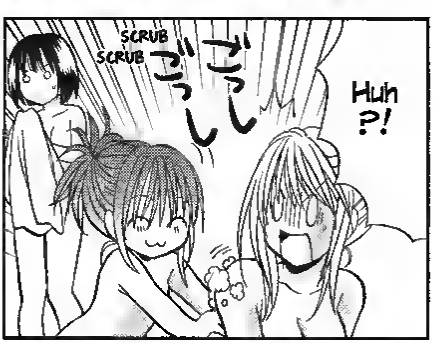

we'd wash each other's backs.
When we went to the public bath together,

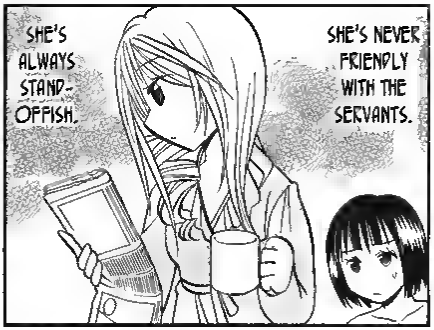

SHE SHOULDN'T BE A SERVANT.
SHE'S FINALLY FREE OF HER DEBT...

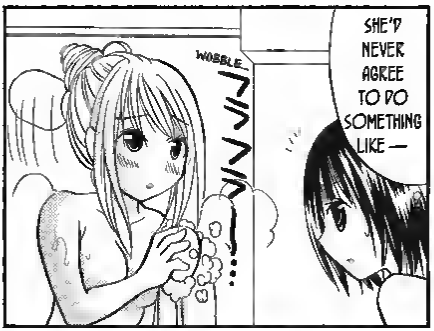
Yes.
She washed your back...?

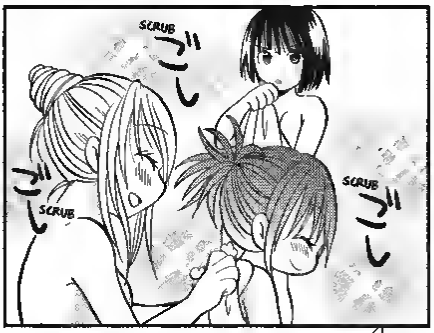
SHE TIRES OF IT QUICKLY.
IT'S BEST IF

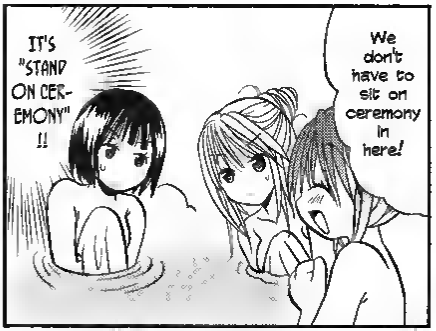

FWIP
Okay, now you do mine, Miss!

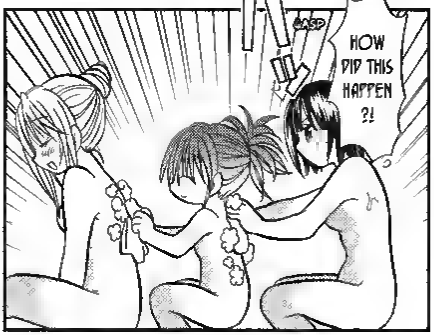

SCRUB SCRUB
ごっし
ごっし
Huh?!





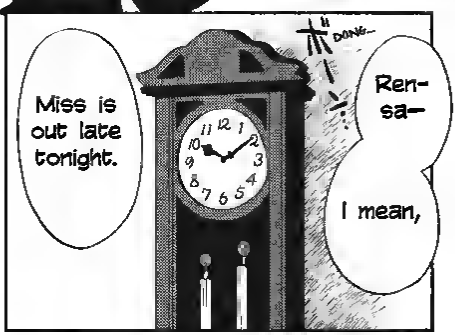


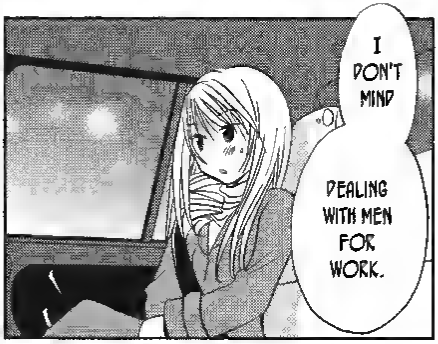


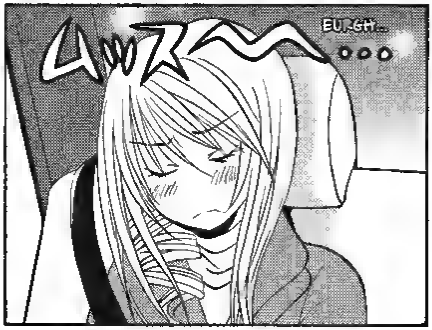


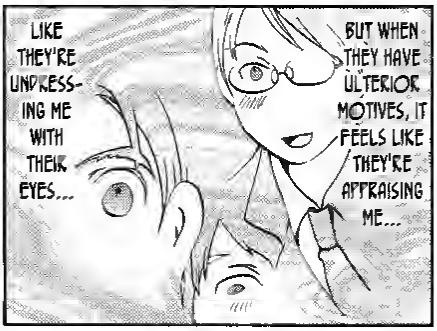
* The original joke is that Nako confuses "bureikou" (an informal gathering where people don't have to be polite to their superiors) with "breaker."

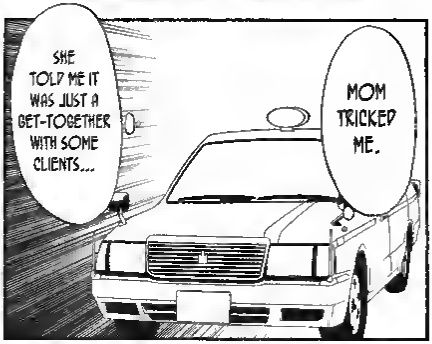
フアフア55
poor poor

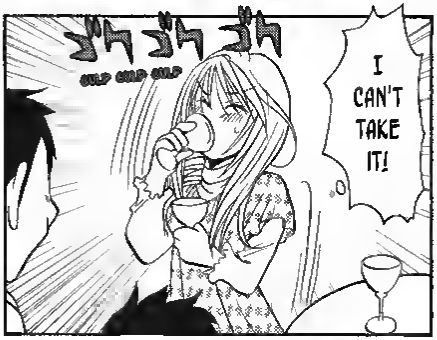


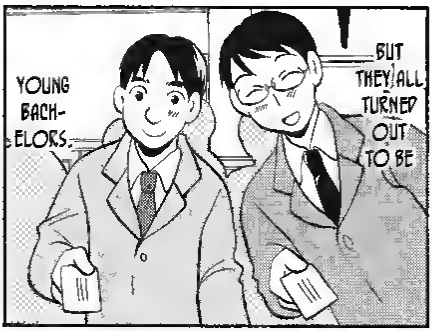


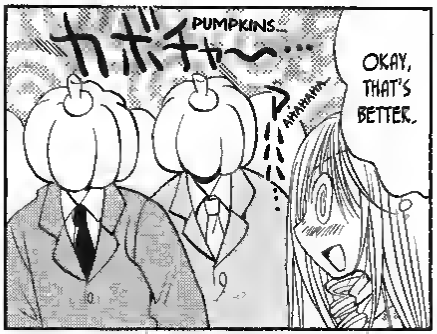


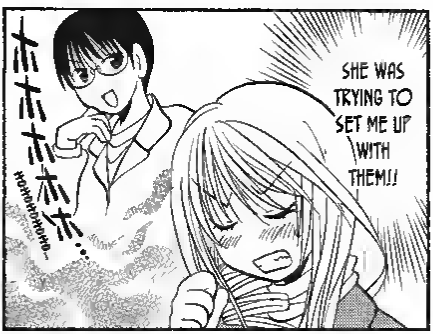






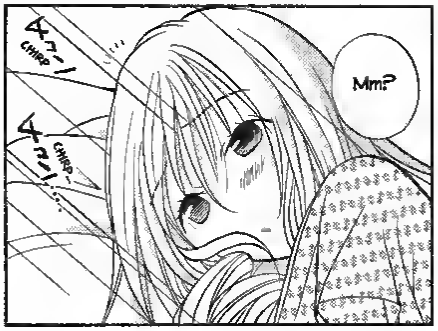






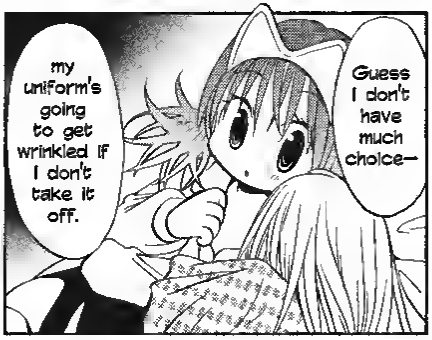
* "Pumpkin guy" ("kabocha yarou") is an expression used to describe a man who is talentless or has an ugly face

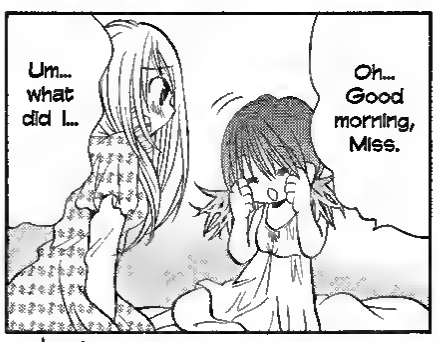
K-CHK
Oomph.
I'm ho— ome!
Miss !!
Miss, you should change.
Mm...
You've had quite a bit to drink.
Sue-san, come help me...
IT'S NAKO .....
OH... IT'S NOT a PUMP-KIN.....
It's past mid-night.
My duties are over for the day.
POUNCE
Gotta get this taste out of my mouth --
Wha- Ren-san! Ren-san...!
Sue-san!
WHOOSH
I'll be retiring now.

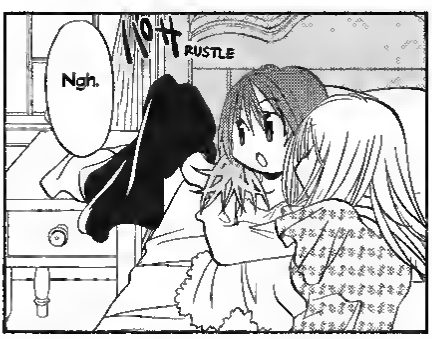

CHIRP
CHIRP
Mm?

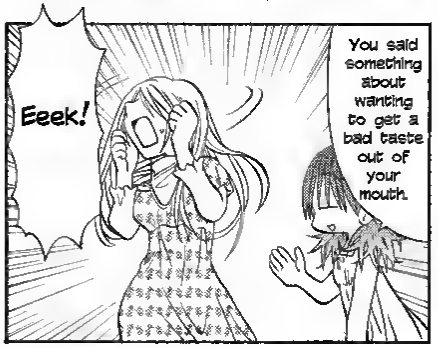
.....
HUG...

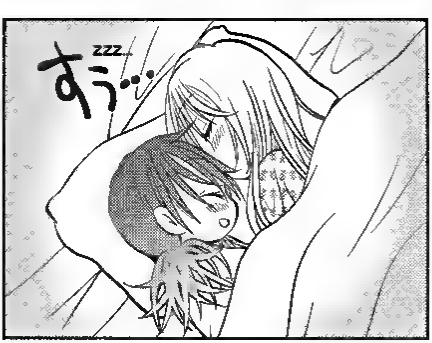
!


Guess I don't have much choice—
my uniform's going to get wrinkled if I don't take it off.


Oh... Good morning, Miss.
Um... what did I...


RUSTLE
Ngh.

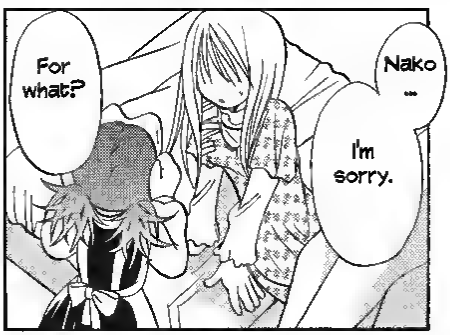

You said something about wanting to get a bad taste out of your mouth.
Eeek!


ZZZ

Huh ?!
but I don't know what it means.
Um, I hear the term "sexual harassment" all the time,

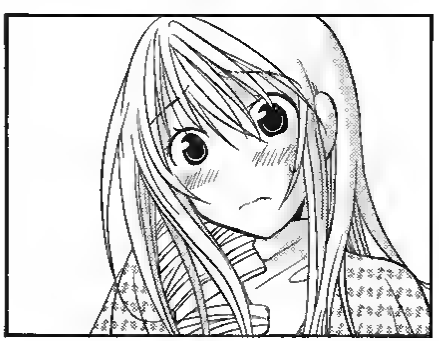
No, you went straight to sleep.
Um, did I_ do anything strange ?

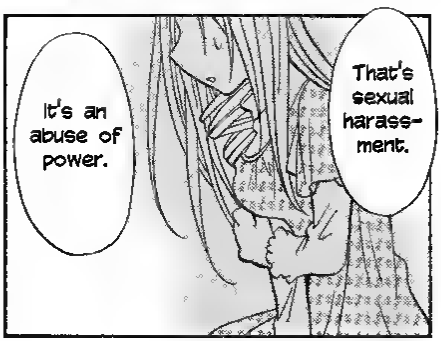
Oh...
It means unwanted attention !!

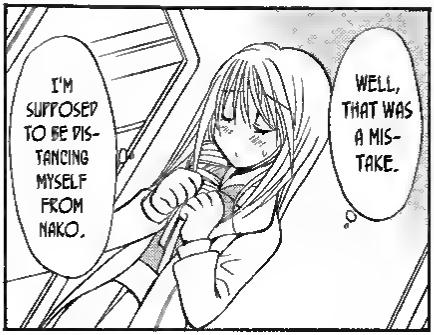

For what?
Nako ...
I'm sorry.

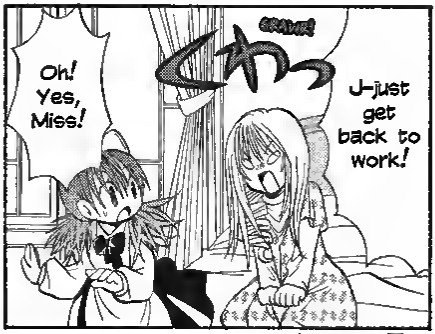
because it wasn't un-wanted.
Then that wasn't harass-ment,

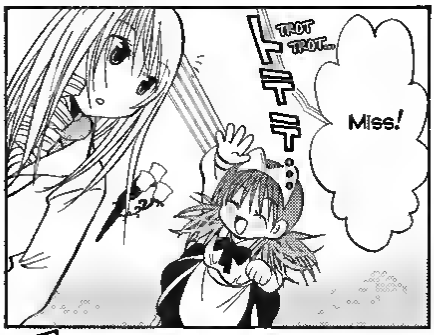
to make you spend the night with me .....
I used my po-sition of power

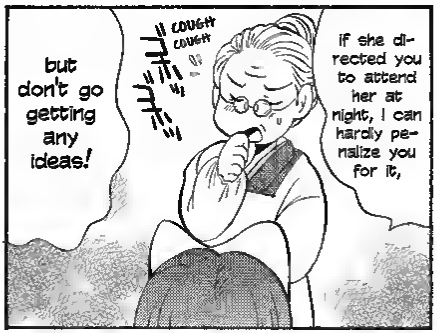



It's an abuse of power.
That's sexual harass-ment.



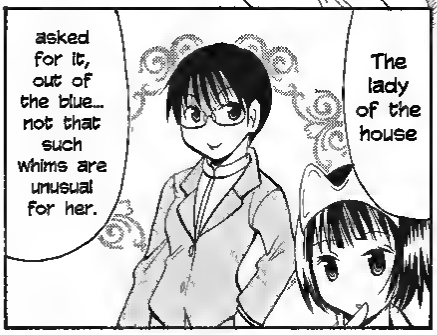


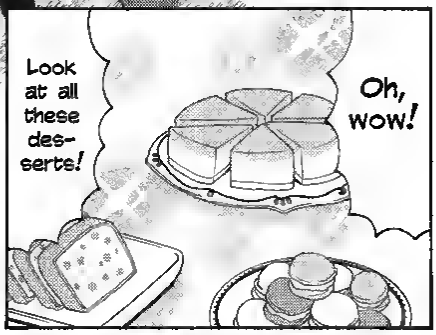


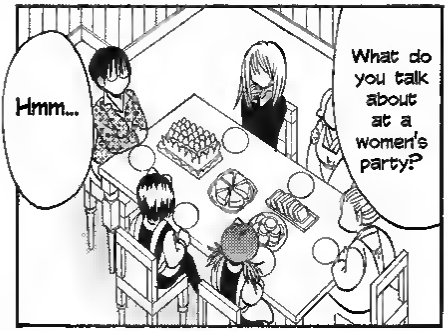


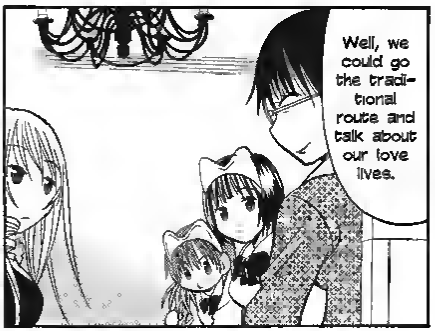
* The Japanese word Yabe used "yotogi," can mean to spend the night with one's master in either a platonic or sexual sense

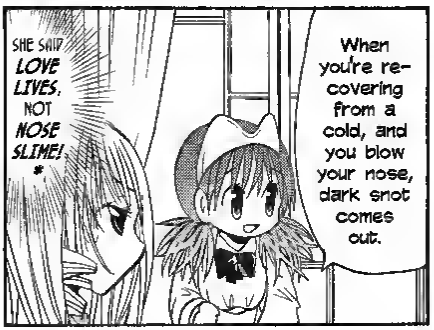
プアプア56
poor poor

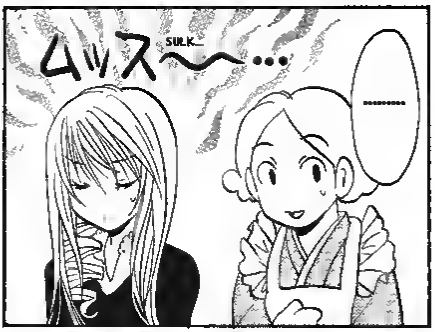


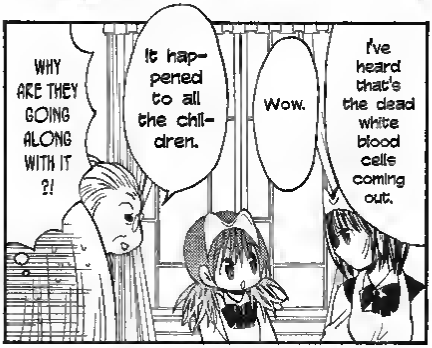


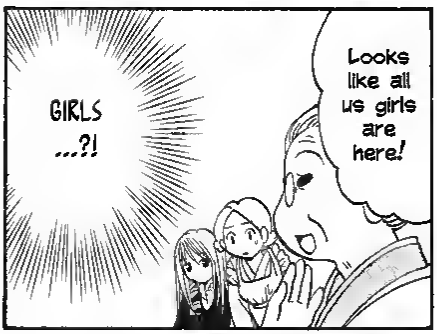






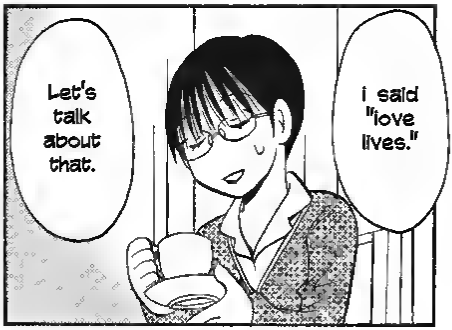






* The original pun is that "koi banna" ("stones about love") also sounds like "dark nose."

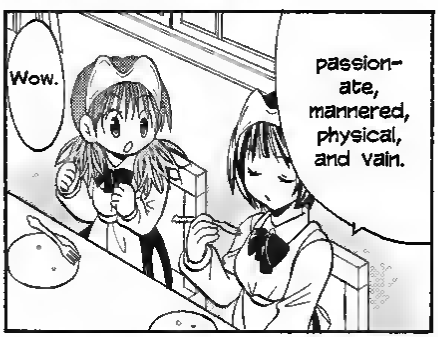
Nako-san, is there a special someone in your heart?
もぐっ
Me-me?!


I said "love lives."
Let's talk about that.

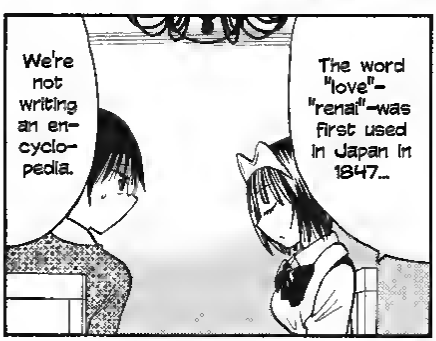
Well...
yes!

According to Stendhal's ONE LOVE,
there are four types of love—

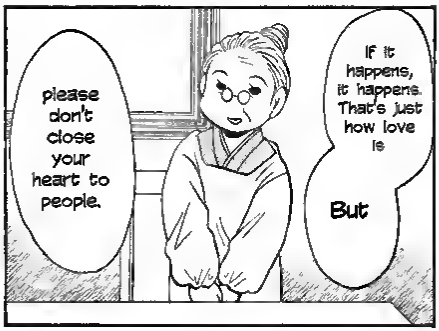
Do tell.
Um... well, it's someone kind...
who's given me a lot of support...


passionate, mannered, physical, and vain.
Wow.

and smells great.
Smells like cake.
FURUI-KUN?!

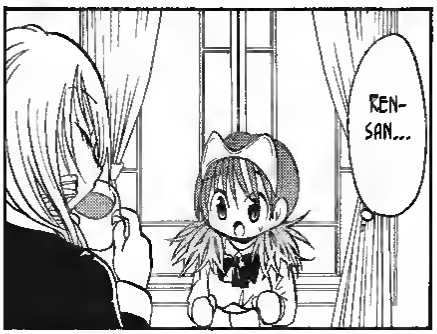

The word "love"—"renai"—was first used in Japan in 1847...
We're not writing an encyclopedia.

You're really asking me that?
How about you, Reri?
now that you're living here.
You must not be able to see much of each other
when I'll be marrying a man of my parents' choosing?
What point is there in falling in love
They're always saying
W-well, it's just one-sided anyway...
GAAAAH
how I'm not their type at all.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A CERTAIN SOMEONE I KNOW.
You have dark snot coming out of your nose.
HACK
COUGH
S-sowwy!
SHE HAS NO IDEA.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT...
MUTTER
MUTTER
HOW COULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HER, FUKU?

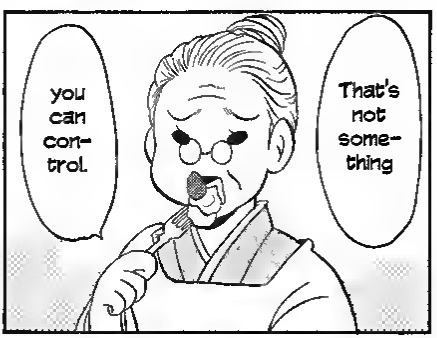

please don't close your heart to people.
If it happens, it happens. That's just how love is
But

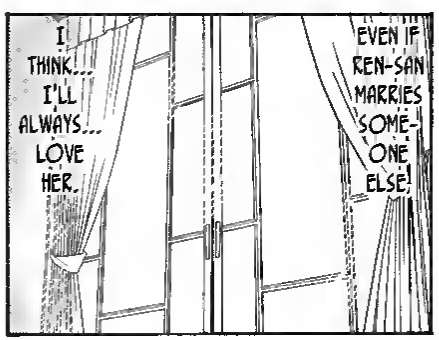
fall in love again. Not ever.
I'll never

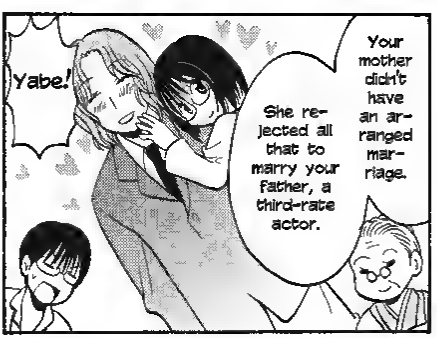
You're right. I won't.


REN-SAN...

YOU CAN'T STOP YOURSELF FROM LOVING SOMEONE.
YES...


you can control.
That's not something


I THINK... I'LL ALWAYS... LOVE HER.
EVEN IF REN-SAN MARRIES SOMEONE ELSE!


Yabe!
She rejected all that to marry your father, a third-rate actor.
Your mother didn't have an arranged marriage.

Afterword

Thank you for reading Poor Poor Lips volume 3.

Nako-chan is the one pursuing Ren-san now. I pretty much had that planned out from the beginning. I didn't plan to make her a maid, though. I thought about having Nako-chan get a job at Ren-san's new workplace after the two of them were separated, but ended up deciding to make her a maid, where she'd be closest ta Ren-san.

Nako-chan's maid uniform is awfully simple—as usual, I'm trying ta make it less time-cansuming ta draw. Her hair is enough of a pain to deal with, I'm not going to draw lace on top of that tooi You know how it is.

I drew her in a cute maid uniform for this illustration, though. Ah... lace is so nice. But I'm bad at drawing it, and it's too much trouble ta bother with anyway.

So, what will become of Nako-chan's feelings? I'm looking farward ta drawing it.

Well, I'll see you again in volume 4. Thank youi

Gato Hayako

poor poor lips 3

Hayako Goto presents

BAMBOO COMICS

プアプアLIPS③

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